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Assmaa Yassin proudly displays her portrait of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.
JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

'THANK YOU'

Syrian teen living in Calgary dreams of presenting PM with gift of gratitude metroNEWS

Emergency income support in high demand

HOUSING AND FOOD

Government's overall caseload jumped nearly 20% last year

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

The province is seeing more people looking for emergency income support, leading to lineups at Alberta Works offices, especially in major cities.

Statistics released by the department show an increase of 7.8 per cent in visits to offices in January over the same time in 2015 and an increase of 9.4 per cent in December over December 2014. The government's overall caseload for people on income support climbed nearly 20 per cent last year.

The Alberta Works office provides emergency assistance to people to deal with necessities like housing and food.

Human Services Minister Irfan Sabir said it's an unfortunate situation that they hope to address.

"It's pretty concerning and we're experiencing very high demand and increased lines at our centres, particularly in Calgary and Edmonton," said Sabir. "We're committed to ensuring that Albertans are receiving the support they need during these challenging times."

Sabir said the department recently turned its phone line into a 24/7 operation and has added staff to the office, while also looking at increased operating hours.

"We will continue to do that to address these pressures," he said.

PHONE LINE

The government's income support phone line receives an average of between 4,500 and 5,500 calls per month.

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metro NEWS

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European Union considering 'large-scale' migrant deportation scheme. **World**

Councillor argues for more stations along the Red Line

TRANSIT

Colleague says city must be wary not to slow system

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra is looking to add more train stations to the Red Line. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra wants the city to get serious and have a "big-boy conversation" on what can be done to bolster ridership on its Red Line by adding a few more stations along the way.

On Monday, council will hear the Ward 9 councillor's notice of motion directing administration to look into the feasibility of new CTrain stations along the existing Red Line.

He's hoping a study could confirm a number of viable spots to plunk down a new station and up ridership from blossoming Transit Oriented Development areas.

"If transit-oriented development is our future, where can we put it?" said Carra.

"Not just on new lines like the Green Line, but where we can retrofit it into existing areas on the Red Line, specifically?"

Coun. Carra highlighted three areas that he said are ideal. ENMAX is consolidating the workforce at its headquarters located on 50th Avenue, Northland Mall has the Whole Foods development and the industrial Fisher Park land is now being mulled as a mixed-use area by the developer.

"We have the opportunity to potentially add new stations and create a new customer base," said Carra.

> **There's ways to structure those deals so everybody wins. That's basically what I'm asking to be scoped.** Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra

Coun. Shane Keating, chairman of the Transportation Committee, said he doesn't see harm in a report but hopes to keep the CTrain going in its intended direction — a fast way to get commuters from one end of the city to the other.

"In that report, we have to make sure we're not trying to create a system that ends up becoming a bit of a trolley car system, where you have stops every two blocks," said Keating.

"I'm exaggerating, but the mentality is we understand what the LRT is: It is to move people fairly great distances."

He said if the report is examining stations based on potential ridership, it should also look at opportunities to put in bus connections instead of a whole new station.

When it comes to funding, there are many opportunities to partner with developers, according to Carra.

"There's ways to structure those deals so everybody wins. That's basically what I'm asking to be scoped," he said.

+ INTEREST

ENMAX confirmed it's looking for CTrain access, in a statement to Metro.

"In the future we plan to consolidate even more of our people here — many of whom already use public transit and would appreciate alternative options to their daily commute," wrote Doris Kaufmann Woodcock, ENMAX spokeswoman.

"Having a nearby CTrain station or direct bus route from one of the existing stations will also address growing parking issues at our building."

IN BRIEF

Calgary to be in recession
Calgary will be in a recession for the second straight year, though 2016's contraction won't be as bad as 2015 said a report released Thursday.

The Conference Board of Canada's Metropolitan Outlook: Winter 2016 shows Calgary with a projected economic contraction of 1.2 per cent in 2016, compared with a decline of 2.4 per cent in 2015.

"The dramatic decline in oil prices continues to weigh on both cities' economies, and weak activity in the energy industry is spreading to other sectors," said Alan Arcand, Associate Director, Centre for Municipal Studies, The Conference Board of Canada. "Two of the hardest hit industries last year — manufacturing and construction — will continue to struggle this year, while conditions in the services sector will deteriorate." METRO

No injuries in structure fire
Calgary Fire Department responded to reports of a structure fire in the 200 block of Queensland Downs SE at 4:20 a.m. Thursday.

Upon arrival, fire crews were met with smoke and flames visible from the middle unit of a town house. Firefighters initiated an aggressive interior attack, proceeding to the basement, knocking the fire down and containing the fire to a single suite.

One cat was found alive during the search and returned to the owners. The people in the unit where the fire started had evacuated prior to Calgary Fire Department arrival, being awoken by a smoke alarm. METRO

There has been a spike in youth mental health discharges from acute care spaces. METRO FILE

Youth mental health care a 'revolving door'

HOSPITALS

Advocates call for solution to outpatient service gap

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

The number of kids and youth who've received mental health treatment in acute beds has jumped over the last decade.

A week after the government unveiled its mental health review, newly released statistics paint what advocates are calling a system with "revolving door syndrome."

In 2015, Calgary Zone hospitals made 1,460 youth mental health discharges from acute care spaces, a spike of 150 per cent from 583 discharges in 2003.

Acute care spaces are not designated as beds for mental health, according to Alberta Health Services (AHS).

Rick Lundy, founder of Open Arms Patient Advocacy Society, noted numerous Albertan families have navigated a fragmented system, only to get help once their children end up in hospital.

He said there aren't enough outpatient resources to keep kids and their families from going to emergency rooms.

"The hospitals fill up and they also get them out as quick as they can," he said. "The problem is going to get worse ... if these resources aren't implemented."

According to Julie Kerr — AHS senior operating officer of Community, Rural and Mental Health for Calgary Zone — the spike in youth discharges from acute care spaces is due to numerous reasons, which include population growth in children and an increase in immigration and emigration.

150
Discharges have increased by 150 per cent in the Calgary Zone since 2003.

She noted there's a trend in increased utilization for mental health services across the country, indicating the de-stigmatization of mental health could mean more people have sought help.

In 2014, Alberta Health Services added 14 new adolescent inpatient mental health beds at Foothills Medical Centre and, in 2013, created eight new mental health beds at the South Health Campus.

She said the population growth has made it difficult for AHS to keep up with adding new mental health services.

Though Lundy commended AHS for adding more mental health spaces, he said it's not enough.

"They've made a few steps, but It's very minimal what they've done," he said.

The government's Mental Health Review plans to increase outpatient services to bridge the fragmented system, though funds for many of such recommendations haven't been finalized.

TECHNOLOGY

New app reviews people

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

Come Monday, the app that had everyone talking will be available for download.

Calgary entrepreneur Julia Cordray said Peeple is finally ready for the general public.

Critics said the idea of rating and reviewing people as you would a business or product is unethical, and raised many privacy concerns.

The app has lots of changes from its original concept, which one Washington Post reporter described as the "Yelp for people."

It's now being called a reputation app, which allows people to connect to one another through honest reviews.

Although Peeple's website had called for an earlier release date, Cordray blamed Apple for taking longer than normal to approve the app. In fact, they rejected it twice, asking Cordray and her team of six to make changes.

> "We may get surprised on Monday and get a lot of interest in one day."
> Julia Cordray

Changes include built-in anti-bullying measures.

Cordray said 2,000 people were invited to beta test the app, and about 500 used it regularly.

She suspects the dynamics of the app will change when people in a single city start using it, and expects between 500,000 and 1 million users in the first month due to publicity of the app.

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skin smart

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Help lock in moisture by exfoliating before applying lotion

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mane attraction

This season, embracing your hair's natural texture is all the rage, but that's no reason to let dryness and frizz take root. Everything from indoor heating to wool hats can wreck your hair during the winter, so get a head start on recovering your strands with a shampoo that strengthens and rejuvenates hair.

try **Garnier Whole Blends™ Honey Treasures Shampoo, OGX® Strength + Body Bamboo Fiber-Full Shampoo**

TIP
Use the low-heat option on your hair dryer to help prevent damage

fresh start

You've spent all winter hiding under layers of clothes, but with the right tools, it's easy to embrace the beautiful weather and look your best. Look for hard-working products that'll make hair removal a cinch from now 'til the end of summer. Treat your teeth by switching to a deep-cleaning and whitening toothpaste that will help remove surface stains.

try **Philips Satinelle Prestige Epilator, Crest® ProHealth™ [HD] Toothpaste System**

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Calgary could soon be home to both the Stampede and the Canadian Finals Rodeo. METRO FILE

Rodeo finals may move to Calgary

PRO ASSOCIATION

Group turns down offer by Edmonton

Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

As a professional bull rider, Scott Schiffner has competed in two of Canada's biggest rodeo events 15 times: the Calgary Stampede rodeo and the Canadian Finals Rodeo (CFR) — one in Calgary and the other in Edmonton.

But now, there's talk about the Scotiabank Saddledome being home to both.

On Wednesday, the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association (CPRA) announced that it might leave Edmonton after the board of directors unanimously voted down a proposal submitted by the Oilers Entertainment Group and the City of Edmonton.

"The primary thing is to put (the CFR) where the fans can get to it," said Schiffner. "I don't necessarily want to see it leave Edmonton, but, if it has to, Calgary's a great city for it."

The CFR is Canada's largest indoor rodeo, bringing in 90,000 people annually. After 43 years in Edmonton's Rexall Place, CPRA officials said they were looking for more money, better sponsorships and an increased investment in production.

Dan Eddy, general manager for the CPRA, said that they wanted "what's fair" for their members.

"After the CFR, even if they win, a lot of the contestants haven't gotten close to breaking even," said Eddy. "So when you have full arenas and a large economic spinoff, I think it's time to do what's best for (our contestants and rodeo personnel), who I feel have been treated unfairly for a long time."

Eddy said that they're seriously considering venues in "about six" different cities. The CPRA had discussions with Calgary representatives on Thursday, and Eddy said the Saddledome was the arena of choice.

> **More rodeos in more cities builds more rodeo fans.**
> Kurt Kadatz

For Schiffner, although he said the idea of the CFR taking up stock in Calgary was "fun to talk about," he still had concerns.

"Rodeos are big all throughout Alberta, not just Calgary," he said. "I just want the sport to grow in Canada, not just isolated areas — I don't want Calgary to be known as the only place with cowboys."

Kurt Kadatz, spokesman for the Calgary Stampede, agreed with Schiffner, saying that he's "hoping for a win-win solution for the CFR to stay in Edmonton."

"We feel that more rodeos in more cities builds more rodeo fans," he continued. "We think the Edmonton and the CFR go together just as well as Calgary and the Stampede."

Hotel Arts' director of business development Fraser Abbott stands near the building where Calgary's legendary Westward Club once stood. Right, an old poster from Nirvana's only Calgary appearance hangs on the wall at Boogie's Burgers on Edmonton Trail. LISA WILTON/FOR METRO

Uncovering old spirit in trendy hotel

YEAR OF MUSIC

Facility boasts robust musical history, evokes sweet memories

Lisa Wilton
For Metro

As Calgary gears up to host the 45th annual Juno Awards in April and the city's Year of Music gets into full swing, a local hotel is remembering its own musical heritage.

Hotel Arts, located on 12 Avenue and 1 Street SW, is considered one of Calgary's trendiest hotels, but 25 years ago it was known as the far less chic Westward Inn.

Attached to the back of the building was a popular live venue called The Westward Club, which hosted touring and local bands throughout the '80s and early '90s.

"It was a great, high-energy place," said Hotel Arts director of business development, Fraser Abbott, who attended several shows at the Westward, including an early gig by rocker Lenny Kravitz.

"It was the hub for the best and coolest up-and-coming bands. A lot of my friends who were really into music were there all the time. I never ordered the draught beer though, because I didn't want to get hepatitis."

Kravitz wasn't the only big name to pass through The Westward Club pre-stardom. The venue also hosted such acts as The Tragically Hip, Sarah McLachlan, The Flaming Lips and Red Hot Chili Peppers just as they were on the rise.

One of the Westward's most legendary gigs, however, happened 25 years ago this week when a trio from Seattle played its first (and only) Calgary show.

On March 4, 1991, Nirvana was still two months away from recording what would become its groundbreaking major label debut, Nevermind, but the band was riding on the college radio buzz generated by its 1989 Sub Pop Records release, Bleach, and its energetic live shows.

It was a cold Monday night, a fact that Su Smith, who booked the band into the room, remembers well.

"The Westward wasn't open Mondays and I don't think I ever had a show on a Monday, so I must have trusted people who said they were going to be good," she said.

"A few people went upstairs to Nirvana's hotel room after. People told me they were super friendly and some say Kurt Cobain was a bit withdrawn. I don't remember much about my conversations with Kurt, except he told me he missed his girlfriend. The only reason I remember that is because I had never heard that in all my years from a musician. It was touching."

The exact number of people at the show — which also featured local openers Skin Barn and Snowman — remains a bit of a mystery. The room legally held about 300 people and some people say only 50 showed up, while others maintain it was nearly sold out.

Smith figures somewhere around 150 or so people braved the weather to see frontman Cobain, bassist Krist Novoselic and drummer Dave Grohl tear the place apart.

"Many people were on the dance floor mesmerized, which would make the rest of the club seem empty," Smith explained.

Calgary Folk Music Festival artistic director Kerry Clarke was a Westward regular and remembers getting roped in to sell merchandise for Nirvana at Smith's request.

"I remember it being a really good rock show," she said. "One of the better bands you'd see at the time. Kurt Cobain gave me a white lighter to thank me for doing merch and drew a felt spiral on it. I remember finding it in a drawer several years later, but I don't think I have it anymore."

By the end of 1991, Nirvana's single Smells Like Teen Spirit had taken rock radio by storm, blurring the line between alternative and mainstream music.

Cobain committed suicide two years later.

"I probably was surprised when they hit it big as it was shortly after that Westward show," said Smith. "It was really fast. Too fast, I think."

LEGACY LIVES ON

Hotel Arts, which opened in 2005, is trying to continue the Westward legacy by hosting a live music series in Raw Bar every Thursday.

Fact: Alberta has lost this many jobs before

POLITICS

Metro checks PC candidate's comments on downturn

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

PC candidate Prabhdeep Gill's comment that Alberta has "never lost this many jobs before" falls a bit short.

During an interview on Sunday, Gill — who's running in the Calgary-Greenway byelection — said this economic downturn has garnered the most ever Alberta job losses.

"We've never lost this many jobs before. You can go into the history," Gill said. "We always had people coming into Alberta, not leaving Alberta."

Fact: In 1982 — when the province was reeling from a recession and the federally imposed national energy program — 45,000 jobs were shed, a stark difference from the net Alberta job loss of 19,600 jobs in 2015, according to Statistics Canada. Further, the job-loss comparison doesn't take into account population growth between 1982 and 2016.

However, it's estimated 40,000 oil and natural-gas positions have been lost across Canada since oil prices began to fall.

Gill said he plans to work hard to make the province a more attractive place to invest while maintaining social services.

"We need to start appreciating (businesses) so we can create jobs," he said, adding the government's current policies aren't helping economic growth.

However, he couldn't say if the PCs would commit to lowering taxes or axing the NDP's carbon-tax plan, if in power.

Prabhdeep Gill said he plans to work hard to make the province a more attractive place in which to invest. CONTRIBUTED

NDP

Earlier this week, Calgary-Greenway NDP candidate Roop Rai also made an inaccurate comment about Alberta's 100 per cent reliance on oil revenue.

SCHOOLS

Tech feared to both educate, alienate

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Technology use in classrooms is proving to be a double-edged sword.

According to a recent Alberta Teacher's Association (ATA) survey, nearly 90 per cent of teachers and principals felt that the number of students with emotional and social challenges has increased over the past three to five years due to technology use.

More than 2,200 teachers and principals responded to the survey, and three out of four said the number of students with cognitive challenges, such as anxiety and depression, have increased as well.

On the flip side, 71 per cent of Alberta teachers said educational technology has enhanced inquiry-based learning. More students are asking questions of their teachers and parents.

"Just like technology is used to connect young people, there's also a growing set of questions teachers and principals have around how it's disconnecting young people," said Phil McRae, executive staff officer with the ATA.

McRae said the survey was just the first step in a 10-year project with Harvard Medical School and the University of Alberta.

Next year, they'll be surveying parents and students and hope to follow those students over a 10-year period to see how technology use enhances or distracts from learning.

> **Just like technology is used to connect young people, there's also a growing set of questions ... around how it's disconnecting.**
> Phil McRae

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MENTAL HEALTH

More youth detox beds needed: Payne

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Though there's growing call for more youth-addiction and detox beds, the number of Calgary youth treated in Alberta Health Services-provided beds hasn't changed much.

In 2015, 398 youth were admitted to AHS beds, a seven per cent decrease from 428 admissions in 2013 — when the number peaked. In 2010, 385 Calgary Zone youth were admitted.

The government's mental health review plans to immediately open three new youth detox beds at Hull Services.

Though the numbers seem to flatline, Associate Health Minister Brandy Payne said beds are gravely needed.

She said the Mental Health Review increased detox beds based on the patterns of usage across Alberta.

Calgary, in particular, had longer wait-times for placements, Payne added.

AHS said there are 19 AHS funded residential and detox spaces for children and youth, adding there are nine beds under the Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act.

Rick Lundy, founder of Open Arms Patient Advocacy Society, said the numbers may not paint the entire picture.

"I know that treating addictions is very difficult, and a lot of the youth get frustrated with the system," he said. "It could be youth trying to get help and then getting frustrated and just giving up on the system."

Julie Kerr, the AHS senior operating officer of Community, Rural and Mental Health for Calgary Zone, said the utilization of detox beds is limited by the numbers of beds available in areas.

ACAD Faculty Association president Alex Link says the school is having difficulty attracting and keeping good staff on what it says is a shoestring budget. METRO FILE

ACAD seeks equal funds

EDUCATION

College calls on government to find better formula

Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Students at the Alberta College of Art and Design aren't valued the same as their neighbours at the University of Calgary — but the school doesn't seem to know why.

For years students at ACAD have been funded at the rate of around 67 cents for every dollar other post-secondary students in the province are allocated, according to the president of the school's faculty association. With another base funding review on the table at the province, the institution is hoping a change in the model could up its funding substantially.

67¢

The amount students at ACAD have been funded for every dollar every other post-secondary student in the province is allocated, the school says.

"When they review the funding structure, I encourage them to look at a system that's equitable for students," said ACAD President Daniel Doz. "There's no real rationale why I get X amount of dollars and Bow Valley College gets Y amount — it's all over the map."

Doz said if the province looked to Ontario, it would find a per-student funding model which allocates funds based on enrolment. He said Ontario identifies categories based on what programs students are in to identify differences in costs.

The Alberta College is about the size of a small high school at 1,000 students, but ACAD Faculty Association president Alex Link says it's mighty and has been pumping out grads — some of whom have won Governor General awards, and more. He said with what's best described literally as a shoestring budget, the school is having difficulty attracting and keeping renowned staff.

"You could absolutely transform the Alberta College of Art and Design with an infusion of funding that at least made it fair within the system, with a total dollar amount the system wouldn't feel," Link said.

Metro asked the Minister of Advanced Education about where the province is at with its funding review and was sent a written statement.

"The post-secondary system in Alberta is complex and that is why we are taking time to ensure that the outcomes of the review of adult learning help us develop long-term solutions to ensure post-secondary education is sustainable and affordable," read Minister Marlin Schmidt's statement. "Currently, our government is reviewing programs and policy to support future discussions with our stakeholders."

Doz said so far, the government hasn't engaged ACAD in a conversation yet.

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Job grants program examined: Notley

EMPLOYMENT

Wildrose critic says it should be scrapped

Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

The NDP government is making sure its job grants actually do their job, according to Premier Rachel Notley.

The $178-million jobs creation plan — which promised to create up to 27,000 jobs by reimbursing employers up to 10 per cent of a new hire's salary, to a maximum of $5,000 — has been in limbo.

On Monday, economic development and trade spokeswoman Marion Nader couldn't confirm that the program is moving forward — but she added that it won't be cut.

Notley said the government is examining how likely the program will promote job creation.

The government is also evaluating how it should best use the program's budgeted money, she said, adding the committed dollars must be used wisely, given the current price of oil doesn't meet the government's October 2015 projections.

Wildrose jobs critic Grant Hunter slammed the program, and said the NDP should scrap it.

Alternatively, Hunter said, the government should lower the small business tax rate by one per cent — the reduction would help small businesses hire more people.

Notley said the government will have more details on the plan when the government rolls out the budget in April.

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Orsha Magyar, founder of NeuroTrition. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

THYROID DISORDER

Glandular issues can look like depression

Jennifer Friesen
For Metro

By the time Orsha Magyar was 16, she'd already faced the two extremes of a thyroid disorder.

She began with a hyperactive thyroid, and, she said, at five-foot-11, was "wasting away" at 115 pounds. But after having her thyroid removed, the hormone imbalance swung to hypothyroidism, causing her to gain 50 pounds in 30 days.

"It really started to affect my mental health," she said. "But I think we need to start thinking about how these mental health issues have a root in biology."

Magyar's childhood struggle led her to study neuroscience and nutrition and she eventually opened a health-care company, NeuroTrition Inc., which pairs neuroscience research with nutrition. Over the past five years, she's noticed an increase of clients coming to her with a depression diagnosis, only to discover that they have an underactive thyroid.

"It's really common today, and it's going up," she said.

"It's still happening because, oftentimes, the symptoms are interchangeable — you're depressed, you're gaining weight, you're losing interest in the activities you once found enjoyable. All these things fit the diagnosis of depression, and if the doctor doesn't take that extra step to send you for blood work, it's missed."

The thyroid helps set the body's metabolism, and hypothyroidism causes the metabolism to slow down, which, in turn, affects one's ability to think clearly.

According to the Thyroid Foundation of Canada, one in 10 Canadians suffers from a thyroid condition. About 50 per cent are undiagnosed.

"So many people have an underactive thyroid that's masquerading as depression," said Magyar.

THYROID TIPS

To ensure a healthy thyroid, Magyar suggests:

1) Avoid soy products: "They block the uptake of thyroid hormones."

2) Up your iodine intake: "This means eating sea veggies but, if they're not for you, cranberries."

3) Boost your vitamin D: "The best way is to get out in the sun, but egg yolks are a second-best."

4) More omega-3s: "These work with vitamin D to build thyroid hormones. Your best bets are fatty fish."

5) Eat Brazil nuts: "High in the thyroid-loving antioxidant, selenium. Go for raw and unsalted."

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Getting critical on going digital

An expert at Mount Royal University says online consultation could be the way of the future if the city gets it right. But there's lots of ways to screw it up, too. Metro looks at whether online engagement will work for Calgarians.

Brodie Thomas
Metro | Calgary

The subject of public engagement has been a hot topic after Mayor Naheed Nenshi said in-person consultation would stop on the southwest BRT project.

The mayor said the city would still consult with citizens through an online process.

James Stauch, director of the Institute for Community Prosperity at Mount Royal University, said if any consultation process isn't fully transparent, it becomes less democratic.

"It's fertile ground for interests that are often quite parochial and entitled — or well organized — to be the loud voice," said Stauch.

He said the same problem can happen in an online engagement strategy.

It's not just about reaching the audience, but having two-way feedback. Stauch said the city can't just collect the information from citizens. It also needs to feed it back to them, and he's seen good examples of that on the city's Main Streets Initiative.

Canadians are world leaders in web usage, but compared with other countries our different levels of government are not as engaged online, according to Stauch.

"We're behind the time when it comes to open government and our democratic interface with technology," he said.

Given the amount of time just about everyone spends staring at a screen or smartphone, the opportunity for growing online engagement seems ripe.

WEBCASTS

The number of people tuning into city council webcasts each year is growing.

- **2012:** 9,914
- **2013:** 10,902
- **2014:** 15,810
- **2015:** 40,587

More Calgarians than ever are using the web to get information from the city, according to Paul Taylor, team leader for web and digital services with the City of Calgary.

The average growth of web use has gone up 10 per cent annually since 2005, as compared with the city's three per cent annual population growth. Last year saw the city's highest amount of web traffic, with 18.5 million visits.

Taylor said the city's website traffic is almost at the tipping point of being primarily from mobile platforms.

He said people come to the site for one of two reasons: basic information like pool hours or a web service such as online home assessment.

Adding engagement to that mix is something the city is already undertaking, with its Engage portal.

"Citizen expectations are ever increasing — we're always looking for new and suitable tools that are going to help us reach citizens."

100K | Web visits the city saw on June 30 and July 1, 2015, as citizens prepared for Canada Day.

The city has tried using a bus to engage citizens. Now it's planning to engage citizens about bus routes online. METRO FILE

Take a seat, talk about your layoff

EMPLOYMENT

Laid Off Calgary helps newly jobless

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Bianca Sinclair wants to talk to you. AARON CHATHA/METRO

Before out-of-work Calgarians brush off the resumes and hit the job boards, Bianca Sinclair wants to give them a more important form of support: A chair — a chair where they can sit down, breathe and, when they're ready, talk.

Sinclair has formed a support group called Laid Off Calgary, to help Calgarians who have recently found themselves out of work. Sinclair works in the oil and gas industry.

"I'm also in a position where it could happen any second," she said. "I thought to myself, what's out there for me? What's out there for my friends who have been laid off?"

Keith Dobson, a clinical psychologist and professor at the University of Calgary, said when people are laid off, they often feel like they no longer have a sense of purpose and struggle with the day-to-day.

"Loss of control and a lack of predictability are huge stressors," he said.

Dobson said a group like Laid Off Calgary can go a long way in helping people realize they're not alone.

Sinclair acknowledged the city has many counselling resources for one-on-one help, but said a group setting might help people open up more.

Meeting information is posted on the Facebook page Laid Off Calgary, or through email at laidoffcalgary@gmail.com.

*Limited time finance purchase offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit, based on a new and unregistered 2016 Jetta 1.4T Trendline (#163VF1) base model with 5-speed manual transmission with base MSRP of $17,600, including $1,605 freight and PDI, financed at 0% APR for 60 months equals 130 bi-weekly payments starting from $135. $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in due at signing. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $17,600. PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. **Up to $2,000 finance bonus cash available to be applied as a discount on MSRP on finance only (through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit) of select new and unregistered 2016 Jetta 1.8T Highline, GLI and Hybrid models. †Lease payments of **$195 on the Jetta must be made on a monthly basis and cannot be made weekly.** Weekly equivalent payments shown for information only. Limited time lease offer available through Volkswagen Finance, on approved credit, based on a new and unregistered 2016 Jetta 1.4T Trendline (#163VF1) base model with 5-speed manual transmission. $1,605 freight and PDI included in monthly payment. 48-month term at 0.99% APR. $1,198 down payment, $250 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation: $10,558. 64,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.15/km for excess kilometres. PPSA fee, license, insurance, registration, any dealer or other charges, options and applicable taxes are extra. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers end March 31, 2016 and are subject to change or cancellation without notice. Model shown: 2016 Jetta 1.8T Highline automatic transmission, $27,995. Vehicle shown for illustration purposes only and may include optional equipment. Visit vwoffers.ca or your Volkswagen dealer for details. "Volkswagen", the Volkswagen logo, "Autobahn for All", "Jetta", "TSI", "Highline" and "Trendline" are registered trademarks of Volkswagen AG. © 2016 Volkswagen Canada.

Local Big Brother player a 'smart cookie'

REALITY TV

Friends predict Raul Manriquez will go far

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

As Raul Manriquez made his debut on national television as a houseguest on season four of Big Brother Canada, his friends said they couldn't believe his dream was coming true right before their eyes.

Mariam Akbar, a friend of Manriquez's said friends and family are still trying to wrap their heads around it.

"It's so crazy we can't even believe it," she said. "It's been his dream for so long and to watch him on TV is so surreal."

Rola Manriquez, who owns Mira Pucchi Maquillage Inc. with Akbar, said she did Manriquez's makeup when they filmed his introduction for the show.

> **People underestimate his intelligence.**
> Mariam Akbar

"It was all very secretive; he had to sign a contract," she said. "I really didn't know what to expect, but they were so good to him and he just worked it."

Akbar said Manriquez will be a player to look out for in the game.

"Based on his personality alone I think he's going to go far," she said. "Raul is undercover smart. When you see him he's a likeable, bubbly, gay stylist and a bit out there, but people underestimate his intelligence. He's a very smart cookie."

Calgarian Raul Manriquez is a contestant on Canada's fourth instalment of Big Brother. CONTRIBUTED

BUSINESS

Province secures economic alliance

The Alberta government and the Business Development Bank of Canada are working together to grow small and medium-sized businesses.

The two have signed a memorandum of understanding to boost venture capital funding through the bank.

The agreement was signed by Economic Development Minister Deron Bilous and bank president Michael Denham.

The province is undertaking a number of initiatives to help grow and diversify the economy.

It is already making $1.5 billion in capital available through ATB Financial for loans to small and medium-sized businesses.

Continuing low oil prices have led to thousands of job losses in Alberta.

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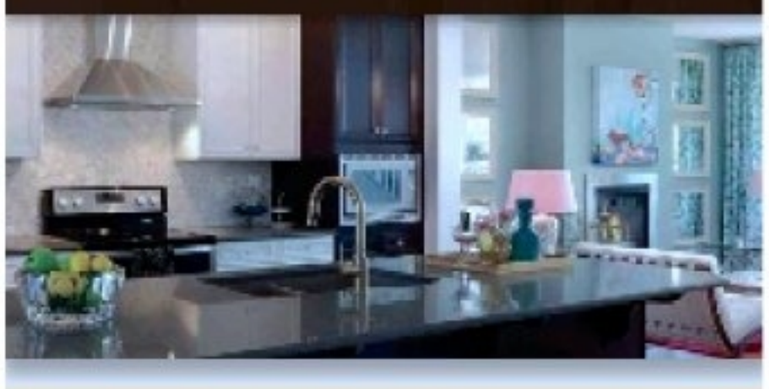

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SETTLEMENT

Syrian teen made portrait of PM, wants to meet him

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Assmaa Yassin has been in Canada for just over a month but already has big loyalties to this country's main man.

When Yassin — a 17-year-old Syrian refugee living in Calgary — arrived here, she walked off the plane carrying a portrait she had made of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. She said her dream is to meet him.

"As soon as I saw him on TV and heard he was the prime minister of Canada who was helping Syrians, I became attached to him," she said through a translator. "He's a unique and special person. He felt the pain of the Syrian people, and peace means so much to him."

Assmaa Yassin's letter and portrait of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Her dream is to meet him. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

When Yassin drew her first portrait of Trudeau in Lebanon it was black and white, but she said when she began to dream about meeting him one day and giving him the painting she knew she had to improve it.

"I started thinking, what if this reaches his hands," she said. "I started working on the painting and colouring his portrait."

> **He's a unique and special person. He felt the pain of the Syrian people, and peace means so much to him.**
>
> Syrian teenager Assmaa Yassin, on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

With Trudeau scheduled to be in Calgary this weekend, Yassin hopes her dream of meeting the prime minister and welcoming him into her home can come true.

"She wrote him this note. It says: 'I hope to see you in our house, and thank you for receiving us in Canada,'" said Sam Nammoura, co-founder of the Syrian Refugee Support Group.

Nammoura said it was Yassin's wish the minute she landed in Canada that Trudeau would receive her painting, and so he's made it a priority.

"Someone has told me they will make sure it gets in his hands when he is here," he said. "Everything starts as a dream, but we want to make this happen."

Mona Moghandaf, Yassin's mother, said it makes her feel fulfilled to see her daughter have such big aspirations.

"It makes me so proud that she has a very high goal and she thinks to meet important people like this is very admirable," Moghandaf said.

Since her time in Calgary, Yassin, who attends Henry Wisewood High School, has completed a second portrait of Trudeau.

That one hangs in the support group's warehouse.

Author Chris Schwab, left, and You Can't Fix Dead subject **Travis McNeil.** CONTRIBUTED

Transgender man finds God, identity

BOOKS

Fellow believer writes story of trauma, search for peace in life

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Travis McNeil doesn't fit any typical mould.

McNeil is a transgender man and said he went through his early life not feeling like himself. Even as he transitioned, he thought something bigger was missing in his life.

"I'd always felt like there was still something not right with me, but I kept feeling better and better as each surgical procedure happened," he said. "I started feeling way more comfortable in my skin and more confident in myself when I found God."

McNeil's life is the subject of Calgarian Chris Schwab's newly published book, You Can't Fix Dead.

Schwab, who attends the same church as McNeil, approached him about the book after someone called him out on Facebook — letting their church and the rest of the world in on his secret of being transgender. The individual called McNeil a hypocrite and many names due to what he perceived as opposing qualities: transgender and Christian.

"I believe it's a unique story," said Schwab. "He's had a very traumatic life and always was looking for an identity that would bring hope and peace to his life.

"He just wanted to feel love and accepted and when he became a believer in Jesus, he's very sure that he's found his real identity."

McNeil said he agreed to do the book because he felt his story would have a positive effect on others.

"We just feel like it would be so impactful and could help so many people, whether they're straight, LGBTQ — whether they're Christian or not," he said. "I always say: The doctors saved my life, and Jesus saved my soul."

McNeil said the title of the book comes from scripture that explains how Jesus died for the sins of all people.

"The reason we picked the name for the book is because one of the scriptures says, 'Your old life is dead; all things are new with Christ Jesus,'" he said. "Every time I hear that scripture, I say, 'You can't fix dead!'"

The process of telling Schwab his story was emotional but cathartic, McNeil said.

"It was excruciatingly painful but also very healing," he said. "There was a lot of tears and a lot of laughter."

> **I always say: The doctors saved my life, and Jesus saved my soul.**
> Travis McNeil

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WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY — The Calgary Barn Dance
The young fiddlers of the Calgary Fiddlers Association provide the music and a guest dance caller teaches the steps to each dance.

The seventh annual Calgary Barn Dance at Thorncliffe Greenview Community hall starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are $20 for adults, $15 for seniors and students.

SATURDAY — The Big Taste
Calgary restaurants participate in The Big Taste, offering three-course and five-course menus at fixed price points. Organized by the Calgary Downtown Association every year to encourage Calgarians to dine out, more than 85 restaurants have signed up this year, including the River Café, Divino and Model Milk. For more information, visit calgarydowntown.com.

SATURDAY — The Calgary Maple Festival
The annual Calgary Maple Festival des Sucre celebrates francophone music, culture and food. Franco-Albertan groups and Métis groups will hit the stage with dances and musical performances.

The festival has been running since 2002 and takes place at Heritage Park.

For more information, visit calgarymaplefest.com.

SUNDAY — The Messenger Premiere
The documentary chronicling the importance of the songbird — and what it will mean on a global and human level if they are lost — premieres in Calgary.

Jenna McFarland and Andrea Hunt of The Calgary Wildlife Rehabilitation Society will host a Q & A at the showing, which takes place at the Globe Cinema.

AARON CHATHA/METRO

Samantha Martin, centre, was nominated for four 2015 Maple Blues Awards. COURTESY ARTS COMMONS

Making a connection

SCENE YYC

Blues singer says she has finally earned recognition

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Samantha Martin and Delta Sugar, described as soul meets blues, have been touring their gospel songs around North America. Edmonton-born but based out of Ontario, Martin hits the Engineered Air Theatre at the Arts Commons on March 4.

In an economic downturn like Alberta is experiencing, do you find more people are connecting with the blues?
The saying art emulates life is very true. As time periods happen, you'll notice common threads in the art communities. I think musicians, because they tend to be at the lower end of the totem poll as far as income, they tend to really speak to the people who are in the trenches with them.

At this stage in your career, do you do more of your writing at home or on the road?
I tend to write at home more-so than the road. On the road I find, we're not touring on tour buses or flying. We tend to drive, so I still do a lot of the driving, planning and touring work. So, not really a whole lot of time for writing.

How did a partnership with Delta Sugar evolve?
We did this showcase and Kerry Clark, who had hired the eight-piece band for Calgary Folk Festival, was like 'I don't want the eight-piece band, I want that. That's cool. I've never seen that.'"

Although you didn't win, how does it feel walking away from the Maple Blues Awards with four nominations?
The Maple Blues Awards nominations, it's a panel across the country. To get nominated is a big thing in Canada — it really shows that people are paying attention to you. This is the first time I'd been nominated, and it's the first time I felt I really deserved it. We worked really hard."

Alberta seeks more renewable energy

POWER GENERATION

Lion's share of electricity comes from gas and coal

Alberta has ordered an agency to develop an incentive program to add more renewable energy such as wind power to the province's electricity grid.

The Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) is scheduled to come up with recommendations for the program by May in the hope of having the first project approved by the government by the end of the year.

Other sources of renewable energy to be considered include hydroelectric, biomass and solar.

Alberta wants renewable energy sources to make up 30 per cent of electricity generation by 2030.

Currently renewables make up about 17 per cent, with the lion's share coming from natural gas and coal.

The operator says more power lines will be needed to tap more renewables into the power grid and move the electricity to where it is needed.

"We are pleased to help support the government's climate leadership plan by developing and implementing an incentive program to bring more renewables onto the grid," said Mike Law, a vice-president of AESO, on Thursday in a release.

"We appreciate the government's commitment to integrating new sources of renewable power into the Alberta electric system."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The province's electricity operator has been directed to develop a program to add more renewable energy, including wind power, to the province's grid. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

CRIME

Four charged over violent 2015 spree

Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Four people have been charged in connection to several drug-fuelled, violent incidents in downtown Calgary during the fall of 2015.

Insp. Don Coleman said those arrested are believed to be behind an October slashing, a November kidnapping from Stephen Avenue as well as a shooting.

"A four-month investigation by the Centralized General Investigation Section led officers to believe the kidnapping and shooting were connected and likely orchestrated by the same individuals," said Coleman.

"Investigators said all three incidents were likely motivated by drug activity downtown."

The four individuals now face more than 25 charges combined.

Brooklyn Jordan Palmantier and Dean Anthony Alexander, both 22 and of no fixed address, have been charged with kidnapping, assault, attempted murder, discharge of a firearm and aggravated assault in relation to the slashing.

David Joseph Brunelle, 25, of no fixed address, has been charged with kidnapping, assault, trafficking methamphetamine, possession of proceeds of crime, possession of a controlled substance and possession with the purpose of trafficking.

Lloyd Bourgeois, 28, of no fixed address, has been charged with kidnapping and assault.

Coleman said police believe the accused were attempting to intimidate a rival drug network in the downtown area.

According to Coleman, two of the three victims are believed to be a part of the rival group; the third was simply "in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Insp. Don Coleman addresses media Thursday. LUCIE EDWARDSON/METRO

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Comedian takes all jokes aside

HUMOUR

New series pulls comics offstage to talk about material

Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

With his new online series After BIRTH Alley, Calgary comedian Daryl Makk explores the life of a joke, beginning at conception with a funny observation or anecdote.

For example, Makk toyed with the notion of margarine containers.

After the phase, where the bones of a joke are written out, the comedian gives birth to the joke, live onstage.

"The joke is based off of margarine and how we were told it was a substitute for butter," Makk said.

"I explain to the audience that it was not invented as a substitute for butter, but so poor people can have Tupperware, too."

In After BIRTH Alley, Calgary comedian Daryl Makk, left, brings fellow standup entertainers to a back alley where they discuss the art form of writing and delivering gags. COURTESY DARYL MAKK

From there the joke either flourishes, drawing an eruption of laughter from the audience, or it bombs, and the comedian is forced to barrel through the silence.

And like many stern parents, the comedian is never satisfied with the child's accomplishments — Makk has re-written that one joke about 11 times.

> **The only way to practise a joke is live, in front of an audience. That's the scariest part of the art form.** Daryl Makk

While the joke has succeeded in front of local audiences, it also flat lined in Australia due to a difference in product packaging.

Makk hopes to give audiences a deep level of insight into the joke writing process by interviewing standup comedians fresh off the stage after trying out new material. Makk pulled these comedians from sets at Comedy Monday Night at Broken City, pulling them straight from the stage to a back alley outside.

"The only way to practise a joke is live, in front of an audience. That's the scariest part of the art form," he said. "You can't rehearse in a garage like a band and wait until you're good."

The show was filmed over 10 weeks, and interviews with established comedians trying new stuff, exploring the gritty little details, like word placement and timing.

He's been performing since 1993 and wants to give some insight into his biggest passion.

"It's kind of a misunderstood art form," Makk explained. "It doesn't have the longevity of music where people can understand the different genres."

Makk said he'll be premiering After BIRTH Alley at Broken City on March 14 at 8 p.m.

It will run on the online network VulcanTV.

Carbon pricing accord

CLIMATE CHANGE

Ministers in agreement, with regional adaptations

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canada's premiers have agreed that carbon pricing will be part of any national plan to address climate change.

He said they will study pricing options that would be adapted to the specific circumstances of each province and territory.

The working group is one of four announced by Trudeau in Vancouver on Thursday after a day-long climate-change meeting with first ministers.

Trudeau said they are to meet again in the fall when the working groups are to report back.

"The commitment we made today, with the Vancouver Declaration, shows all first ministers in this country united on carbon pricing mechanisms," he said.

"The fact that we have consensus on the need to include carbon pricing in our approach to addressing climate change right across the country is a great thing indeed."

He added he's happy there's a plan to move forward while respecting regional differences.

"The working group that we have put together will dig into the mechanisms that will be most effective and most appropriate for each jurisdiction, recognizing that there are areas that face greater challenges."

The federal government has been quietly insisting for weeks that a national carbon price, as promised in the Liberal election platform, will be imposed from above if provinces are unable to agree. The day started with several premiers pushing back against that federal resolve.

Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil suggested there was "more than one way to deal with the carbon issue."

He said Atlantic Canada's heavy spending on hydro-electric transmission has effectively already built in a carbon price with electricity rates that are the highest in Canada.

Yukon Premier Darrell Pasloski said he and his fellow territorial premiers are against imposing additional costs on consumers of fossil fuels in the North.

Brad Wall of Saskatchewan came to Vancouver warning against a carbon tax in a fragile Canadian economy, but cleared the air Wednesday by saying his province would participate "constructively" in any working groups. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau leads Canada's premiers to a news conference during the First Ministers Meeting in Vancouver on Thursday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MANITOBA

Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger, who faces re-election this spring, said there's a common understanding among premiers that action on climate change can and should take many paths. "The do-nothing option is not there," he said.

BORDER

Police project delayed

A Canada-U.S. initiative to create new, cross-border law-enforcement teams has been "postponed" due to unresolved concerns about how to treat police officers accused of breaking the law.

The so-called next-generation border project has been put off as discussions continue with U.S. officials — almost four years after pilot projects were supposed to begin, said Staff Sgt. Julie Gagnon, a force spokeswoman.

The initiative — part of the 2011 Canada-U.S. perimeter security pact — would see the two countries build on joint border-policing efforts by creating integrated teams in areas such as intelligence and criminal investigations.

Two pilot projects were supposed to get underway by summer 2012.

But in 2013, it emerged that the effort was being held up by the difficult question of which country's legal system would apply if a police officer were accused of breaking the law.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MADAGASCAR

Vet learning to protect lemurs

Meg Crane
For Metro

A Malagasy veterinarian is in Winnipeg to get first-hand surgery training in hopes of sparing native wildlife, like lemurs, from being decimated by stray animals in her home country.

"In school, you get next to no practical training," said Winnipeg veterinarian Jonas Watson about vet training in Madagascar.

Watson, of Tuxedo Animal Hospital, is one of the vets behind Mad Dog Initiative, an organization that goes to Madagascar to trap, spay or neuter and then release stray cats and dogs.

An overpopulation of strays on the island has wreaked havoc on native wildlife, said Watson, thanks in part to a lack of practical veterinary training to keep pet populations down.

In order to help Malagasy vets get that training, they're brought to Canada to learn surgery in a Canadian clinic.

On Feb. 26, vet Tsiky Rajaonarivelo left Madagascar for the first time and made the 30-hour flight to Winnipeg where she's working with about a dozen different vets, including at the clinic at the Assiniboine Park Zoo. She's currently at Birchwood Animal Hospital.

"She is a quick learner and she retains everything you tell her," Watson said.

"It's pretty different from what I know in my country because there are just lots of machines (here)," Rajaonarivelo said. "When we do the surgery in Madagascar ... we don't have the (same equipment.)"

Although the mechanics are different, she said she's learning things that she'll be able to use in her practice when she returns.

Next summer, Rajaonarivelo will be leading Mad Dog's spay and neuter project in Madagascar.

"It's very important for us to protect (our wildlife)."

She said Mad Dog is accepting donations of hospital supplies, such as gauze, for the project.

The non-profit paid for her to come to Winnipeg, so financial donations are being accepted to offset those costs, Watson said.

"I went there thinking we were going there to help dogs and help protect wildlife," said Watson. But the most rewarding part has been helping the people there, such as Rajaonarivelo, by giving them opportunities.

Tsiky Rajaonarivelo with Birchwood resident cat, Harvey. MEG CRANE/FOR METRO

IN BRIEF

Man finds possible plane debris from Flight MH370
An American adventurer named Blaine Gibson said that he discovered part of an aircraft on a sandbar off the coast of Mozambique. The debris could be from the Malaysia Airlines flight that disappeared two years ago with 239 people aboard. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cholera kills scores in Haiti
Cholera, which arrived in Haiti in October 2010, has sickened more than 770,000 people and killed more than 9,200. So far this year, it has sickened more than 6,000 and is killing an average of 37 people a month, according to the latest government figures. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kalamazoo shooter to be examined before trial
A man charged in the fatal shooting of six people in southwestern Michigan will undergo a mental competency exam. Prosecutor Jeff Getting said the review of Jason Dalton's mental health could delay the case by at least two months. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REFUGEE CRISIS

EU considers mass migrant deportation

Turkey is under growing pressure to consider a major escalation in migrant deportations from Greece, a top European Union official said Thursday, amid preparations for a highly anticipated summit of EU and Turkish leaders next week.

European Council President Donald Tusk ended a six-nation tour of migration crisis countries in Turkey, where 850,000 migrants and refugees left last year for Greek islands.

"We agree that the refugee flows still remain far too high," Tusk said after meeting Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu.

"To many in Europe, the most promising method seems to be a fast and large-scale mechanism to ship back irregular migrants arriving in Greece. It would effectively break the business model of the smugglers."

Tusk was careful to single out illegal economic migrants for possible deportation, not asylum-seekers. And he wasn't clear who would actually carry out the expulsions.

Greek officials said Thursday that nearly 32,000 migrants were stranded in the country following a decision by Austria and four ex-Yugolsav countries to drastically reduce the number of transiting migrants. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Migrants queue outside the hospitality centre on the Greek Island of Samos. LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mitt Romney, top left, gives a speech on the state of the Republican party in Salt Lake City, Utah, Thursday. **Romney spoke about Donald Trump, right, calling him a fraud** and arguing against his nomination, a sentiment Sen. John McCain, bottom left, agreed with. GETTY IMAGES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trump levelled by McCain, Romney

POLITICS

Ex-presidential nominees urge GOP to shun front-runner

In an extraordinary display of Republican chaos, the party's most recent presidential nominees, Mitt Romney and John McCain, lambasted current front-runner Donald Trump on Thursday, calling him unfit for office and a danger for the nation and the GOP.

"His is not the temperament of a stable, thoughtful leader," Romney declared. He called Trump "a phoney" who is "playing the American public for suckers," a man whose "imagination must not be married to real power."

Hours later, Trump lashed back, calling Romney "a choke artist" who lost to Barack Obama four years ago only because he was such a poor candidate.

The vicious feud marked a near-unprecedented scenario pitting the Republican Party's most prominent leaders, past and present, against each other as Democrats begin to unite around Hillary Clinton.

The GOP's 2008 nominee, Arizona Sen. McCain, joined in, raising "many concerns about Mr. Trump's uninformed and indeed dangerous statements on national security issues." That echoes the worries of dozens of leading conservative defence and foreign policy officials.

The back-and-forth came as the Republican candidates prepared for their first post-Super Tuesday debate Thursday night in Detroit. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TALKING BACK

Kelly prepares for debate
All eyes were on Megyn Kelly and Donald Trump during Fox News Channel's Megyn Kelly in Thursday's Republican presidential debate. She said she prepared the same "tough but fair" questions for him as she does for other candidates.

Kelly and Trump clashed during the first GOP debate last summer. Trump then boycotted an Iowa debate that Fox telecast in January after the network refused to remove Kelly as one of the moderators. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MISSILE LAUNCH

North Korea readying its nukes

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has ordered his country's nuclear weapons made ready for use at a moment's notice, the official state news agency reported Friday.

Kim also said his country will ready its military so it is prepared to carry out pre-emptive attacks, calling the current situation very precarious, according to KCNA.

On Thursday, North Korea fired six short-range projectiles into the sea off its east coast, South Korean officials said, just hours after the UN Security Council approved the toughest sanctions on the North in two decades for its recent nuclear test and long-range rocket launch.

The firings also came shortly after South Korea's National Assembly passed its first legislation on human rights in North Korea.

North Korea routinely test-fires missiles and rockets, but often conducts weapons launches when angered at international condemnation. Thursday's firings were seen as a "low-level" response to the UN sanctions, with North Korea unlikely to launch any major provocation until its landmark ruling Workers' Party convention in May, according to Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

150 km

The North Korean projectiles flew about 100 to 150 kilometres before landing in the sea, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Festivals feel loonie's pinch

ECONOMY

Music and arts events booking more Canadian performers

The Toronto Sketch Comedy Festival has recruited some notable American names in the past, including Saturday Night Live star Kate McKinnon and writer-actor Michael Ian Black.

But this year it will be an exclusively Canadian event for a reason that's no laughing matter: The low loonie means the fest can't afford to book international talent.

This year's lineup is all homegrown and a bit more eclectic than usual, with names including Rush guitarist Alex Lifeson and Dave Bidini of the Rheostatics, along with comedians Gavin Crawford, Jessica Holmes and Sean Cullen.

They may be household names on this side of the border, but the festival isn't expecting to sell as many tickets as in previous years.

"I think we probably will not," says Paul Snepsts, executive director of the event, which kicked off Thursday.

"That's not because of a lack of talent in this country. It just seems, and I think this is true in music as well as comedy, that we have a tendency to be prone to buying into something once it has achieved success elsewhere."

Some other arts festivals are also grappling with the weak dollar.

"We're feeling it somewhat," says Josh Grossman, artistic director of the TD Toronto Jazz Festival, which showcases talent from around the world.

Grossman says he's heard organizers of other festivals say the loonie is also affecting their approach to programming.

He expects his festival may have to raise some ticket prices "a little bit."

"It's hard to say exactly, but a show that we might have been able to sell for $25 last year is maybe going to be $30 this year, that sort of thing," he says.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FIRST VICTIM

Squamish Valley Music Festival cancelled

B.C.'s Squamish Valley Music Festival, which takes place in August, has officially been cancelled for 2016. Squamish Mayor Patricia Heintzman said organizers told her it was a "business decision," which she suspects was likely influenced by the low Canadian dollar.

METRO

Janneke Coenen dances at the Squamish Valley Music Festival in August last year. The festival has been cancelled for 2016, and Squamish Mayor Patricia Heintzman suspects the dollar influenced that decision. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

HEALTH

Google joins the Zika fight

Google is donating $1 million to fight the spread of the Zika virus and offering engineers and data scientists help to determine where it will hit next.

Zika has become an epidemic in Latin America and the Caribbean since last fall. The virus is mainly spread through mosquito bites and has been linked to birth defects.

Google said it is in a good position to assist since its mission is to help people find information, and it has experience analyzing large sets of data. The company has seen a more than 3,000 per cent increase in global search interest in Zika since November.

Google's engineers are helping to build a platform to process data on things like weather and travel patterns to predict potential outbreaks. The company said the platform will be used to help government officials and others to decide where to focus their resources.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warmer ocean points to boom in lobster catch

Maine's lobster catches will likely peak early this year, which could mean an abundance of cheap lobster for consumers and bad news for the state's signature industry, a group of scientists reported Thursday.

Maine's busy summer lobster fishing season typically picks up around early July, the same time the state's tourism industry gets in gear. But scientists with the Portland-based Gulf of Maine Research Institute predict this year's lobster season will get rolling two or three weeks early.

The scientists, who unveiled their findings during the Maine Fishermen's Forum in Rockport, pinned the early lobster season on warming ocean temperatures. Along Maine's coast, temperatures are higher than normal, which means lobsters are likely to move inshore, shed their shells and become more easily trapped earlier this summer, they said.

An early lobster season can disrupt Maine's valuable lobster supply chain, which is partially dependent on big July and August catches, and make prices plummet. Prices at the dock fell 16 per cent in 2012, a year of early catches, and prices to consumers fell, too. The 2014 haul shattered state value records because of a high-volume catch that arrived on schedule.

"If the timing is off by just a few weeks, it can have a major impact throughout the supply chain," said Andrew Pershing, the chief scientific officer with the research institute.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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metro VIEWS

Your essential daily news

SCIENCE FRIDAYS

Stress and grief can trigger heart trouble. A new study shows joyous events like becoming a grandparent can break your heart too.

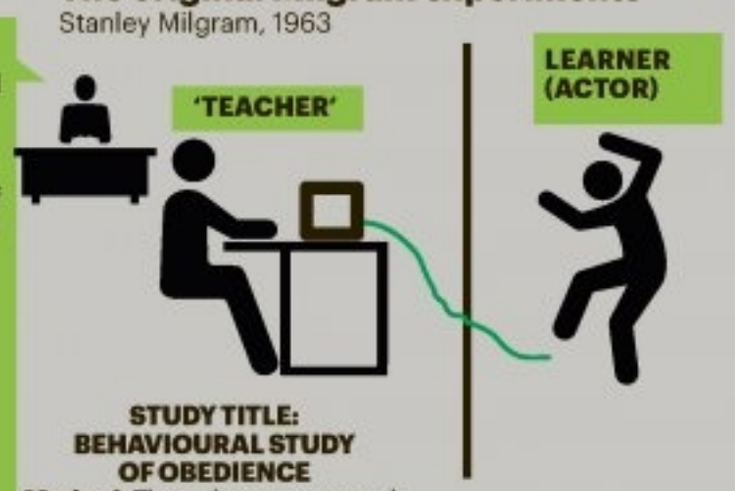
DECODED

'Just following orders'

That was the catchphrase of the **Milgram experiments**, some of the most infamous studies in the history of science. In the 1960s, psychologist Stanley Milgram believed he'd proven regular people could be easily convinced to inflict what they thought was a painful, or even deadly, electric shock on somebody if they were ordered to by an authority figure. He said it was a profound insight into the minds of perpetrators of atrocities like the Holocaust. But reputable science must be replicable. And the Milgram experiments, which required that researchers tell people to harm others, were so ethically problematic there was really no way to repeat them in a modern lab. But now, someone has tried.

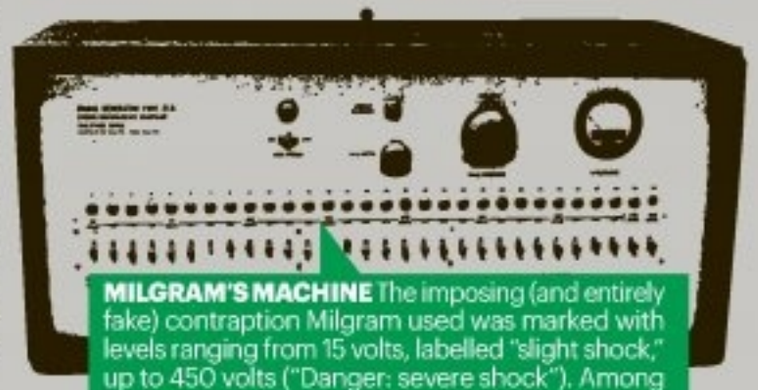
The original Milgram experiments

Stanley Milgram, 1963



STUDY TITLE: BEHAVIOURAL STUDY OF OBEDIENCE

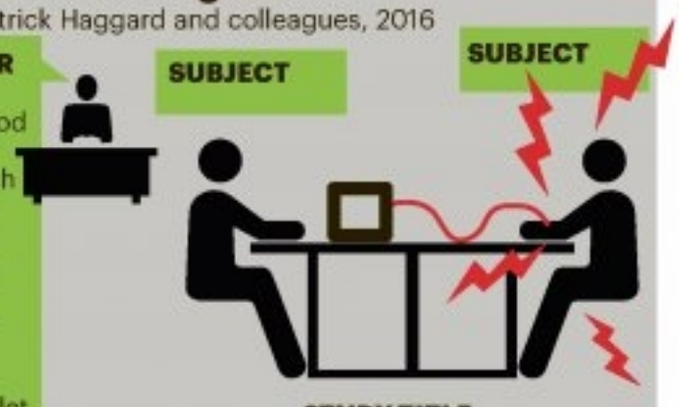
Method: The volunteer research subject, called "the teacher," read a list of words for "the learner," an actor who was hooked up to a (fake) shock machine in another room, out of sight. If the learner made a mistake repeating the words, the teacher was instructed to deliver ever-stronger electric shocks. Pre-recorded screams were played, and just before the highest shock was to be given, the learner fell silent. **Result:** In one experiment, 65 per cent of "teachers" obeyed all orders, right up to the end.



MILGRAM'S MACHINE The imposing (and entirely fake) contraption Milgram used was marked with levels ranging from 15 volts, labelled "slight shock," up to 450 volts ("Danger: severe shock"). Among his hundreds of human guinea pigs, many later reported either discomfort or confusion, but a few suffered more serious effects — even, allegedly, a heart attack and in another case seizures. At least one expert has even argued what Milgram did meets the definition of torture under international law.

A modern Milgram

Patrick Haggard and colleagues, 2016



STUDY TITLE: COERCION CHANGES THE SENSE OF AGENCY IN THE HUMAN BRAIN

Method: This experiment had no element of secrecy. The research subjects sat across from each other with a keyboard between them with two keys: One delivered a painful (but not dangerous) electric shock, while the other did nothing. Some subjects were told to deliver shocks (sometimes earning a small financial reward), and others were given free choice as to whether to deliver them or not. **Result:** The research subjects who were ordered by the lab assistant to deliver shocks were significantly more likely to do so.

The late Staney Milgram is an authority, albeit an extremely controversial one, in the world of psychology.

The average social psychology textbook devotes eight pages to his work, and interest in it is growing exponentially.

The question of why good, or at least normal, people sometimes do others harm has eternal appeal. It's easy to see why: If we understand that, couldn't we understand, for example, why some children are bullies, or why some people become terrorists?

Investigating that question is more complicated than it seems, says St. Thomas University psychology professor Ian Nicholson, a critic of Milgram-style experiments old and new.

"Milgram came out of an era — which hasn't completely ended — where there was a dream of being able to develop a level of exactitude toward human nature akin to the certainty we have in the natural sciences," Nicholson says. "We'd know definitively why people become bad."

Drawing conclusions about the Holocaust from people's behaviour in a lab is a logical leap too far, he argues.

Unlike research subjects, perpetrators of atrocities knew exactly what they were doing, and believed it was right. And that's the key distinction, Nicholson says.

He likens Milgram's lab to an "unusual space" like a magician's stage. You might be asked to volunteer to take a saw to someone, and it might be socially acceptable to do it. But that wouldn't make you an axe murderer. Everyone knows "Kooky, goofy, weird stuff goes on" in psych labs, he says, and people "roll with it."

In the Milgram 2.0 experiments, there was no deception. Participants knew they were dishing out real pain, and they continued. Author Patrick Haggard told Nature, "Your sense of responsibility is reduced whenever someone orders you to do something."

Still, this took place in a lab. It's hard to make a case, Nicholson says, that the results are "generalizable." What he suggests instead is less electrifying: Consult historical records, and if you want to understand people who've done horrible things, talk to them.

FASCINATING FINDS OF THE WEEK

ATTRACTIVE IDEA

For years, techies have dreamt of Magnetic Random Access Memory, a data-storage method so sturdy that in-progress essays would survive power outages; so efficient, phone batteries would last days. Until now the method (which involves reversing the spin of electrons) required a huge blast of electricity. But Dutch researchers have found a workaround: bending the electric current with a sort of anti-magnet.

FOR THE GATOR GOOD

Nesting birds in the Everglades tend to live near alligators' lairs. The reptiles are handy bodyguards against racoons and other predators who like to snatch eggs and chicks. Now there's new evidence, published in the journal PLOS One, of why alligators dig this arrangement. Wading birds lay more eggs than they can raise, and they get rid of extra chicks by pushing them out of the nest. Alligators snack on the surplus.

SOUND SMART

A hypothesis, now confirmed, for why island coasts are more biodiverse than open oceans: Currents around islands dredge up nutrient-rich water that nourishes phytoplankton, which provide food for invertebrates and fish, which attract sea birds — and presto! Coral reef.

Genna Buck

Citizen Scientist

Should I try cutting wheat, dairy or eggs out of my child's diet?

QUESTION

My four-year-old gets frequent tummy aches. Other parents swear by eliminating irritating foods — wheat, dairy, eggs, etc. Does that actually work? Andrea in Halifax

Dear Andrea,

I can't address your child's issues from here in Toronto, and also I'm not a health professional. Get thee to your family doctor! Not Dr. Google. The dietary-advice industry is a duck pond: It's full of quacks.

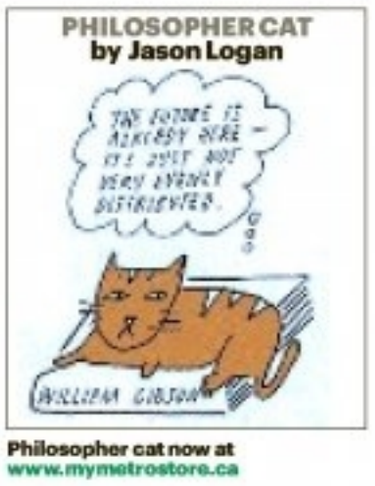
To your question: Yes, elimination diets (i.e. dairy-free) have their place for children with an allergy (diagnosed by a doctor, usually with a skin test), or an intolerance (such as lactose intolerance and others).

A study out of Umeå University in Sweden this week looked at food allergies and parent-identified hypersensitivities in 2,585 seven- and eight-year-olds. Just 0.6 per cent showed evidence of reactions to at least one basic food (milk, eggs, fish or wheat). But eight times as many had parents who *said* they were allergic to one of those things. Years later, many of the kids were still on restricted diets, though the majority had either outgrown their allergy or intolerance (many do), or never had it in the first place.

Dieticians will tell you growing kids should enjoy a variety of foods. Without a good medical reason, they'd rarely advise cutting a whole category like dairy, which for all its faults is rich in calcium and protein.

Science question? Email scene@metronews.ca

PHILOSOPHER CAT
by Jason Logan



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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION GOSSIP

Gerard Butler: The actor we love to hate

Gerard Butler is looking to redeem his bad movie rap with London Has Fallen, which opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

ANALYSIS

Good looks, acting chops and bad movie role choices

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Last week as I fought traffic en route to a London Has Fallen screening, I tweeted from the back of a cab, "Out of my way people! I'm running late for a Gerard Butler movie!" It was a silly little joke, a comment to kill time as we idled in the morning rush hour.

The first response came in right away: "said no one, ever," followed by a torrent of unexpected Butler hate.

One person called him a "bouncer actor," whatever that means.

Another questioned his ability to effectively disguise his native Scottish accent and many people offered me their condolences.

Why the Butler bashing?

It's true he is a frustrating movie star. He shares the usual leading man traits that have made Brad Pitt and Leonardo DiCaprio superstars.

He's handsome, talented and built like an action star but he's been done in time after time by poor choices.

Pitt makes Fight Club, Butler makes Law Abiding Citizen. Leo stars in The Departed, Gerard does Machine Gun Preacher. Years ago the website Gawker placed Butler on movie star probation, calling him a "professional bad decision maker" alongside notable career fritterers Cuba Gooding Jr. and John Travolta. A look at his IMDB page suggests they were on to something.

He's a utility player, comfortable switching genres the way most of us change our socks. One minute he's a romantic comedy star, the next he's choking out bad guys on screen. He's flirted with Shakespeare and provided voices for cartoons.

He's done sci-fi flicks, musicals and even a rendering of the Anglo-Saxon epic poem Beowulf.

It's not like he hasn't enjoyed some very big hits. In 300 he (and his meticulously crafted six-pack) played King Leonidas, a Spartan who led 300 soldiers against the might of the Persian army.

It's the film equivalent of a heavy metal concert — loud, brutal and completely uncompromising — and it made him an action hero.

People have a soft spot for Dear Frankie, his breakout film and the one that turned him into a heartthrob with serious dramatic chops. The four-hankie U.K. tear-jerker about a single mother who resorts to trickery to keep the memory of her late husband alive in her son's mind put Butler on the world stage.

Other box office bonanzas include playing a charming mobster in the violent Guy Ritchie flick RocknRolla and voicing Viking Stoick the Vast in How to Train Your Dragon.

It's the other stuff that seems to rub people the wrong way. As a movie reviewer I can attest there are few English language words more terrifying than "New Gerard Butler Romantic Comedy" and I think it is those films that turned my Twitter followers against him.

He's a good actor but his track record in the rom-com department is particularly grim.

Critics hate these movies, calling the handsome Scottish actor's attempts at mixing love and comedy, "instantly grating," and "embarrassingly limited."

But I come to praise Butler, not to bury him. Let's give him another chance.

I made it to the London Has Fallen screening and can tell you it's a pretty good action movie. Perhaps even good enough to erase the memory of The Ugly Truth or Playing for Keeps from our collective memories.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Zootopia	★★★★
London Has Fallen	★★★
Whiskey Tango Foxtrot	★★★
The Legend of Barney Thomson	★★★

HOW RATING WORKS
★★★★ SEE IT
★★★ WORTHWHILE
★★ UP TO YOU
★ SKIP IT

Zootopia: The man behind the mammals

INTERVIEW

Canadian animator rising through ranks at Disney

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Bunny officer Judy Hopps has 48 hours to crack a case in the animated movie Zootopia. ALL PHOTOS HANDOUTS

Disney animator Trent Correy may be an Ottawa native, but three years of living and working in Burbank, Calif., have changed him.

"I get home about once or twice a year now," he says. "It's hard to go in the winter, my body has adapted to here. I tend to send my parents photos of me on the beach in February when it is -42 C back home. I have flip flops on now while we're talking just to turn the knife a little bit."

Ironically the sun worshipper's breakout was helping to animate the snowman Olaf in Frozen. You've also seen his handiwork in Big Hero 6 and this weekend he's back with the furry and funny film Zootopia.

"The nice part of Zootopia was working with a number of different characters," says the Algonquin College graduate. "I worked with everything from a mouse to a sloth to an elephant. It kept the job very interesting."

Set in an alternate universe where animals, both predator and prey, live harmoniously in a city called Zootopia, the movie's funniest sequence involves a slow moving sloth named Flash. It was the first scene Correy helped animate. "There are a lot of challenges animating a sloth moving at that speed," he says, "and a lot of other challenges animating a mouse or an elephant with their different weights and animal attributes."

The 28-year-old is a rising star at Disney — he's currently working on the mythological epic Moana — so it might come as a surprise that he didn't take art in high school.

"I failed art," he admits. "It was totally my fault. I wasn't into the art history stuff at the time and I was really interested in drawing cartoons. That was looked upon as not real art so the teacher and myself had disagreements. I ended up having to take drama, and that's fun too.

"I did always love to draw. I have to thank my mom, who is an artist, who encouraged me to draw and keep going."

He rediscovered his passion for art after high school and now joins the rather long and impressive list of Canadians who are helping to shape the future of animation. I ask him why Canadians are so in demand as animators.

"There is a rich history of animation in Canada with the NFB and a lot of TV work in the '80s and '90s," he says. "I think a lot of it has to do with work ethic. I tend to see a lot of people who come from TV animation who are faster. They have to be because they get paid per frame in a lot of places in Canada, whereas here it's salary. So to make your money you have to be fast, you have to be efficient and you have to be economical in your choices.

"Our whole crew here is very international, we have people from all over the world. I think there is a bit of, 'I'm coming from a different country and I'm trying to prove myself in this big place.' It feels so far away from Ottawa."

ZOOTOPIA

Moosebridge 'has more hair than I do'

Good things happen to Peter Mansbridge at airports.

Back in 1968, the veteran news anchor was a 19-year-old ticket agent working in an airport in Churchill, Man., when a CBC station manager heard his booming voice over the airport PA system. The random "audition" led to Mansbridge being hired to host the local CBC station's late-night music program. News jobs in Winnipeg, Saskatchewan and Ottawa followed before the London-native replaced Knowlton Nash in 1988 as sole anchor for CBC's The National.

Flash forward several decades. Mansbridge was at Toronto's Pearson International Airport on his way to Vancouver.

"I was going through the security line," he says, "and the guy behind me said, 'Hey, you're Peter Mansbridge, right? I'm with Disney and I just came out of a meeting where we were talking about trying to get you involved in an animated feature we're doing.'"

"Sure, you're from Disney," thought Mansbridge. Nevertheless, they exchanged business cards. "Very soon after I got an email and it was clear he really was from Disney."

The offer was for Mansbridge to provide the voice of news anchor Peter Moosebridge in Zootopia, which opens Friday. The Disney animated feature is about a brave little bunny who helps clean up crime in a big city full of animals.

Peter Mansbridge (right), anchor for CBC's The National, lends his voice to a moose in Zootopia. HANDOUT PHOTO

A few things had to be worked out before Mansbridge could answer his moose call. Outside work is a sensitive issue at the public broadcaster and the job had to be vetted.

"We take our journalism seriously," says Mansbridge. "We don't want our journalism to be seen in a light that doesn't reflect well upon the series."

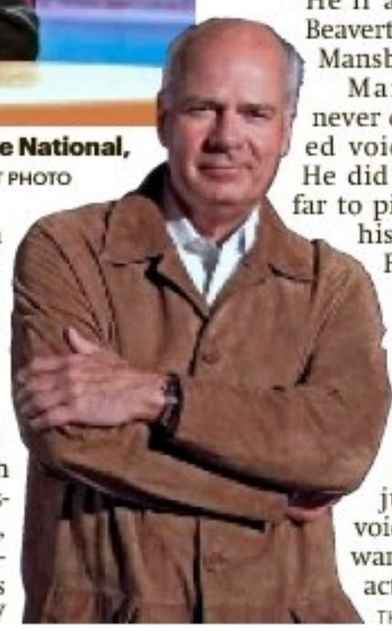
This was, however, Disney, not South Park. As Mansbridge notes, CBC has carried Disney's flagship TV series since the '50s. "They have a great legacy, and this is going to be seen by hundreds of millions of viewers, so what exactly is the reason to not be involved with this?"

Different if the character had been a weasel. A moose? Now that's Canadian. "It doesn't look like me." Mansbridge adds. "It has more hair than I do."

A few years ago, it is suggested, the part might have gone to retired CTV anchor Lloyd Robertson. Disney could have gone with Lloyd Beaverton.

"He'll always be Lord Beaverton to me," quips Mansbridge.

Mansbridge has never done an animated voice-over before. He did not have to go far to pick up pointers: his wife, Stratford Festival veteran Cynthia Dale, helped with a little coaching. Besides, as he says, the part was hardly a stretch. "They just wanted my voice — they didn't want me to try and act like a moose."



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‘Gleefully macabre’ story gets adaptation

DARK COMEDY

Robert Carlyle does double duty acting and directing

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

Robert Carlyle directs, and stars alongside Emma Thompson in The Legend of Barney Thomson. HANDOUT

The Legend of Barney Thomson is a movie Robert Carlyle was almost destined to make. The Once Upon a Time star not only plays the lead character, he directed the Scottish black comedy about an awkward barber who unwittingly becomes a serial killer.

“I was offered this four or five times purely as an actor over a period of five or six years,” he says. “I was over here in Vancouver working and a friend of mine said he had a Scottish script that I might be interested in. I said, ‘Of course I’ll read it,’ and it was that again. I can’t get away from it.”

The script is based on The Long Midnight of Barney Thomson by Douglas Lindsay, a novel The Scotsman described as “gleefully macabre.”

Carlyle, a Maryhill, Glasgow native, liked the screenplay but says, “there were certain aspects of Glasgow culture that were missing from it.”

“In Glasgow we have a way of speaking to one another that is kind of harsh. That was missing.”

He drew from personal experience to find Glasgow sites that “fitted in with Barney’s life.”

“A lot of the locations you see in the film like the Barrowland Ballroom are places that are kind of dying and might not be around for much longer so I thought this was an interesting way of documenting some of these places.”

Initially he signed on only as an actor but soon found himself doing double duty.

“Believe me when I say, it certainly wasn’t my idea. I don’t know if (the idea) came from the financiers or not. I can’t remember but from whichever source it came from it seemed to be an interesting hook to hang this on that not only was I going to be in it but direct it also. That enthused the financiers.”

The first time feature film director says he took his lead for the tone of the movie from the book and the script.

“Let’s not have the camera moving around and spinning around in circles. Let’s spend the time on the performances and not the camera angles, which you end up cutting anyway.”

He recruited an all-star cast, including Sir Tom Courtney, Ray Winstone and his old Trainspotting cast mate James Cosmo. In a casting coup, he hired two time Oscar winner Emma Thompson to play against type as Barney’s monstrous mom.

“Many, many years ago at the beginning of my career she did a piece on Scotland TV called Tutti Frutti,” he says. “She’s played a Scot in that, from Glasgow. I thought, ‘She’s remarkable. I thought she was English.’ Then suddenly I realized, she is English and just did this terrific accent. There’s not many English people who can do a Scottish accent that well.”

The Legend of Barney Thomson has already won Best Picture at the Scottish BAFTAs and Carlyle is keeping busy on the small screen as Mr. Gold/Rumplestiltskin on Once Upon a Time.

It’s his next project, however, that has the Internet buzzing. In May he’ll reprise the role of the pint glass-wielding psychopath Francis Begbie in the sequel to Trainspotting alongside the film’s original director and cast.

“We were all very emotional when we read it,” he says, “even Danny (Boyle), because these four characters have followed us around for twenty years. Where ever I go people are talking about Begbie. It is very close to us.”

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ACTION & ADVENTURE

London Has Fallen

Director: Babak Najafi
Starring: Gerard Butler, Aaron Eckhart

The British Prime Minister has passed away under mysterious circumstances. His funeral is a must-attend event for leaders of the western world. What starts out as the most protected event on Earth turns into a deadly plot.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 18% Audience: 96%

DRAMA/COMEDY

Whiskey Tango Foxtrot

Director: Glenn Ficarra, John Requa
Starring: Tina Fey

SNL alumni Tina Fey steps into the shoes of journalist Kim Barker in an adaptation of Barker's memoir The Taliban Shuffle: Strange Days in Afghanistan and Pakistan, which details her years as a reporter in Pakistan and Afghanistan beginning in 2002.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 56% Audience: 95%

ACTION/COMEDY

Zootopia

Director: Byron Howard, Rich Moore
Starring: Ginnifer Goodwin, Jason Bateman

Zootopia is a city like no other. Comprised of habitat neighbourhoods like ritzy Sahara Square and frigid Tundratown, it's a melting pot where animals from every environment live together — a place where no matter what you are, you can be anything.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 100% Audience: 98%

DRAMA

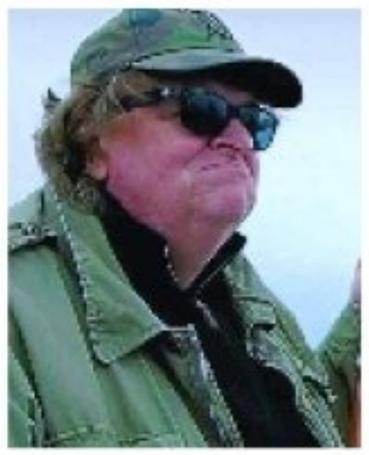
Rams

Director: Grímur Hákonarson
Starring: Sigurður Sigurjónsson

Winner of the Un Certain Regard prize at this year's Cannes Film Festival, this charming, stunningly shot drama focuses on two Icelandic sheep farmers whose decades-long feud comes to a head when disaster strikes their flocks.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 97% Audience: 85%



DOCUMENTARY

Where To Invade Next

Director: Michael Moore

This is an expansive, rib-tickling, and subversive comedy in which Moore, playing the role of "invader," visits a host of nations to learn how the U.S. could improve its own prospects. The creator of Fahrenheit 9/11 and Bowling for Columbine is back with this hilarious and eye-opening call to arms.

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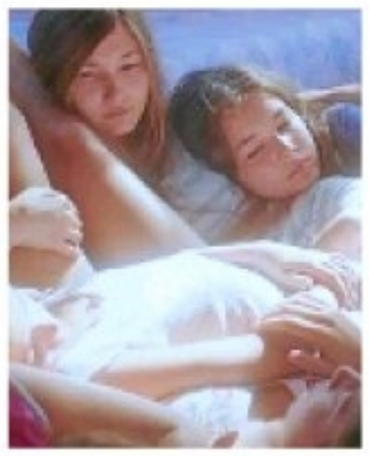
Critics: 76% Audience: 74%



DRAMA

Mustang

Director: Deniz Gamze Ergüven
Starring: Günes Sensoy

Early summer in a village in Northern Turkey. Five free-spirited teenaged sisters splash about on the beach with their male classmates. Though their games are merely innocent fun, a neighbor passes by and reports what she considers to be illicit behavior to the girls' family.

ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE

Critics: 96% Audience: 90%

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Tina Fey stars in Whiskey Tango Foxtrot, based on the book The Taliban Shuffle by Kim Barker. HANDOUT

War correspondent's book comes to big screen

INTERVIEW

Author's life made into a movie starring Tina Fey

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

"To be a good journalist you have to be a bit of a chameleon," says Kim Barker. "You have to be accepting of different cultures, different languages and different situations. I have always been the kind of person who feels like they can go into any situation and fit in."

In real life, Barker is a journalist who worked at the Chicago Tribune as a reporter and volunteered to become a foreign correspondent in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In reel life, she's played by Tina Fey in Whiskey Tango Foxtrot as an expatriate television journalist addicted to the rush of living and working in a war zone.

Whiskey Foxtrot Tango plays like Animal House with warlords, or maybe Fear and Loathing in Afghanistan, but Barker describes the reality of her time there in more poetic terms.

"In Afghanistan everything looks like a picture," says Barker. "Everything is so beautiful. The people are beautiful. The landscape is beautiful. You are surrounded by mountains when you're in Kabul. (The people) are very friendly, very direct with very good sense of humour. Also Afghanistan has men with long beards and pick up trucks and guns who hate the government. That is familiar to me. I grew up in Montana."

At the beginning of her time abroad Barker was a fish out of water but soon learned to culturally adapt and love the country.

"I remember on my second trip there meeting a guy who asked if I wanted to go fishing with him. I grew up fishing but fishing in Afghanistan is a little bit different because it usually involved throwing a grenade into the lake and stunning the fish or blowing them out of the water or using generator wires to electrocute them. That just doesn't seem very sporting to me."

Afghanistan has men with long beards and pick up trucks and guns who hate the government. That is familiar to me. I grew up in Montana.
Kim Barker, journalist

Barker's book, The Taliban Shuffle came to Tina Fey shortly after a New York Times review mentioned Barker's similarity to the comedic actress.

"Tina Fey saw it," Barker says. "I think her people probably showed it to her or my people. I don't really have people but my agent sent it over to her people. She read the book and within two weeks of that review coming out she pushed Paramount and Lorne Michaels (who produced the movie) to option the book and make it into a movie.

"(People) said, 'Who's going to play you?' I said, 'A smart funny woman in Hollywood,' and everybody was like, 'Tina Fey?' It was everybody's first answer."

Barker describes having her life turned into a film as surreal.

"It's hard to even think about," she says, "people seeing this in a theatre. They are going to equate me with Kim Barker even though (that) Kim Barker is a version of me. It's fictionalized."

She says the film screenwriter Robert Carlock told her early on that they would have to "Hollywood this up." Changes to the basic story were made, and when they sent her a final copy of the script in 2014 she couldn't bring herself to read it. Finally her best friend read the script "to make sure it is not going to embarrass you."

"She read it and said, 'It's fine. It's good. It's really good. You're probably not going to like parts of it because it makes you seem more heroic than you think of yourself.' She was absolutely right. I'm not that brave."

PREVIEW

Ghostbusters trailer blends old and new

Ghostbusters is due out on July 15. CONTRIBUTED

I ain't afraid of no Ghostbusters reboot!

The first trailer shows the summer comedy crossing the streams of the 1984 original with the signatures of director Paul Feig.

Kristen Wiig stars as Erin Gilbert, a doctor of particle physics, whose wacky team of paranormal investigators played by Melissa McCarthy, Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones (not a scientist, but brought in because she "knows New York") tackle New York City's ghost invasion.

Fans of Feig comedies such as Bridesmaids and The Heat will recognize his off-the-cuff comedy style, which prizes slapstick over sense. So when Melissa McCarthy is possessed by a ghost, of course it calls for Leslie Jones to slap the spooks out of her. Of course there is a haunting in a wig store. Where else would a ghost spend the afterlife?

Ghostbusters is due in theatres on July 15. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The family of Nina Simone (pictured here) have decried the casting choice of Zoe Saldana for a biopic, because she is lighter skinned than Simone. DAVID REDFERN/REDFERNS

Simone estate slams biopic

FEUD

Family of singer takes aim at casting of Zoe Saldana

Zoe Saldana. GETTY IMAGES

If there was any doubt about how Nina Simone's family feels about the upcoming biopic starring Zoe Saldana, recent social media posts make it clear they are not pleased.

A fresh round of criticism for the film erupted after the trailer and poster for Nina were unveiled Wednesday.

Saldana posted a quote from the singer and civil rights activist on Twitter, and Simone's estate responded with: "Cool story but please take Nina's name out your mouth. For the rest of your life."

Simone's daughter and others have decried the choice to cast a light-skinned actress as the African-American activist since Saldana took the part in 2012. Her skin was apparently darkened for the role.

At the time, Simone's daughter, Simone Kelly, said: "Appearance-wise this is not the best choice."

"My mother was raised at a time when she was told her nose was too wide, her skin was too dark," Kelly told the New York Times in a 2012 interview.

The Simone estate tweeted Wednesday: "Hopefully people begin to understand this is painful. Gut-wrenching, heartbreaking, nauseating, soul-crushing. It shall pass, but for now..."

The singer's estate co-operated with producers of the Netflix documentary What Happened, Miss Simone? which was nominated for an Oscar this year.

Robert L. Johnson, founder and chairman of the studio releasing Nina, describes Saldana's performance as "an exceptional and mesmerizing tribute."

"She gave her heart and soul to the role and displayed her extraordinary talent," he said in a statement Thursday.

"The most important thing is that creativity or quality of performance should never be judged on the basis of colour, or ethnicity, or physical likeness."

Representatives for Saldana and the Simone estate did not respond to requests for comment Thursday.

RLJ Entertainment will release Nina in theatres, digital HD and video on demand on April 22.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If the whole world went to the hogs

Disney's new movie Zootopia got us thinking: what if animals really did rule the world? It's not the first movie to envision an alternate version of human society. As these examples illustrate, there are some serious advantages to living in animal-centric worlds. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Babe (1995)

The kingdom: Modest barnyard with wide variety of affable talking creatures and kindly god figure Farmer Hoggett

Benefits: High tolerance for citizens with pronounced eccentricities (i.e., pigs who think they're dogs), local fairs that offer American Idol-like opportunities to emerging talents

Drawbacks: Like the goose says, "Dinner means death! Death means carnage! Christmas means carnage!"

Ants (1998)

The kingdom: An ant colony in New York's Central Park that's presented as a totalitarian, rigidly conformist society with billions of inhabitants.

Benefits: Life is hard but at least the bars have plenty of "aphid beer" and line dancing.

Drawbacks: Wars with acid-spewing termites, bitter class divisions between upper-crust ants and their proletariat lessers, constant threat of being crushed by giant sneaker tread.

Kung Fu Panda (2008)

The kingdom: The verdant valleys and majestic mountains of ancient China except most of the inhabitants don't need coats to stay warm.

Benefits: Remarkably inclusive attitudes to potentially divisive issues of species difference (tigers and monkeys enjoy friendships with insects and birds) and non-traditional families.

Drawbacks: Sizeism still rampant, inner peace as hard to achieve as ever.

Fantastic Mr. Fox (2009)

The kingdom: Parallel world of nattily dressed woodland creatures in and underneath bucolic English countryside.

Benefits: Excellent tunnel system, reputable badger attorneys, strong support for local newspaper, relaxed attitude to table manners.

Drawbacks: Rifle-toting farmers living in close vicinity, hard to maintain look of freshly pressed shirt.

Planet of the Apes (1968)

The kingdom: Brutal world in which primates occupy all roles of an early industrial society. It's really a postapocalyptic Earth!

Benefits: Chance to look bad-ass in a black leather vest, easy to get hairless-ape slaves to do the stuff you don't want to.

Drawbacks: Restrictive caste system that limits gorillas to roles as authoritarian right-wingers and chimps as intellectual liberals, no ethical constraints to prevent chimp-on-human experiments.

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THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

Knowing that Downton was soon to end, I got curious. Have Anna and Bates found happiness at long last?

When Downton Abbey concludes on March 6, there's little chance the series finale will abruptly cut to black, followed by excruciating silence, leaving loyal fans wondering if Lord Grantham got whacked. It would be preposterous — and not only because David Chase already did that back in 2007 when he ended The Sopranos but also because Downton's creator Julian Fellowes knows his fans: they would not tolerate an ambiguous ending whose meaning (like Chase's) could be debated for eternity. They want a happy conclusion, preferably bow-tied by the likes of Mr. Carson.

Over six seasons, the British drama has chronicled the lives lived both upstairs and downstairs in the Georgian-era country home. Simon and I used to watch Downton together. But when plots started to approximate soap operas as in both length and content — Anna and Mr. Bates have to be two of the unluckiest characters ever on TV — no amount of tea cups, gorgeous Edwardian costuming and posh accents could help make the show feel more than a guilty pleasure. We tuned out.

But knowing that Downton was soon to end, I got curious. What has Mrs. Patmore been cooking up in the kitchen? Did Lady Sybil come back from the dead? Have Anna and Bates found happiness at long last? So I read some episode recaps, skipped straight ahead to Season 6, and breathed a sigh of relief to see that the Dowager Countess, played by Dame Maggie Smith, hadn't lost her penchant for acerbic aphorisms.

THE SERIES: Downton Abbey

THE MEAL: An alone-time dinner

It looks like Thomas Barrow, "the most consistent plotter of nefarious schemes for nearly all six seasons of the show," as Vulture recently put it, may have atoned for past sins and be redeemed. And yes, there are still over-the-top sensational moments: in Episode 5 Lord Grantham's ulcer takes a turn for the worse and he literally starts spewing blood from his mouth during dinner.

But I did my catching up solo: Simon refused to return to Downton. So on Sunday night I'll tune in with an alone-time dinner. That's what I call a meal I'd never make for anyone else but me; simple food you'd be embarrassed to serve — even to your judgement-free partner — on account of it not approximating what most of us think of as dinner. For me, this is a green salad with thin slices of raw, red onion, some tangy goat cheese and a lemon dressing served alongside a big fat piece of baguette with butter and a crisp, dry white wine.

I already know how I want Downton to end. Imagine we flash forward to today when tour groups are being lead through the seemingly endless rooms by the current owners. They make their money by opening up the home; is a bit of meta realism considering this is how most of England's great country estates survive today — including Highclere Castle which doubles as Downton. A little boy on the tour notices a photo on the wall of Lady Mary. 'What happened to her?' he will ask. The new Lord will explain, and so on so forth, until the sepia-toned portraits of a vanished era have yielded lives fully lived. "All life is a series of problems which we must try and solve, first one and then the next and then the next," as the Dowager said, "until at last we die."

But I'm not holding my breath.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

DO A 'W' TAKE

After six seasons, people get it: The name is Downton Abbey. Not 'Downtown' Abbey. So why not a less risky title for the series? Julian Fellowes explains:

"I have always been rather an admirer of my great-grandfather, Professor John Wrightson, 1840-1916, who was an experimental agriculturalist.

"His eldest brother, Sir Thomas Wrightson, Bart., of Neasham Hall in Yorkshire, had done great things in the world of steel and their aunt was married to Lord Armstrong, the British Krupp of armaments, but John was more interested in farming.

"He had an estate in Wiltshire called Charford Manor and I thought of calling the series 'Charford Abbey,' but we decided it was too near Cranford, and so we settled on 'Downton' after Downton College of Agriculture which Wrightson founded in 1880 and which, for a quarter of a century, was at the forefront of agricultural innovation."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After Downton Abbey: Some killer new roles

Michael Fox as Andy Parker, and Sophie McShera as Daisy Mason in Downton Abbey. MASTERPIECE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

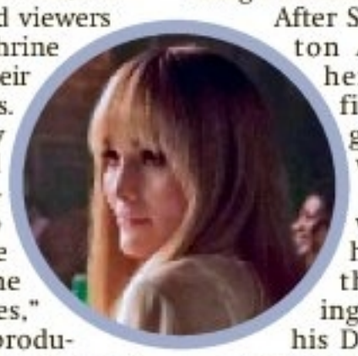
OUT OF CHARACTER

Farewell Lady Mary, hello sleazy ex-con, and more

What's happening to certain Downton Abbey stars is downright criminal.

Joanne Froggatt, pictured below, the TV drama's vulnerable Anna Bates, is morphing into a 19th-century serial killer in PBS' Dark Angel. **Michelle Dockery**, seen at centre, who plays coolly elegant Lady Mary in Downton, is a sleazy American ex-convict in TNT's Good Behavior. And **Kevin Doyle**, the good-hearted Mr. Molesley, is a bad-hearted police detective in Netflix's Happy Valley.

The end of PBS's Downton Abbey after six seasons means new career paths for its stars, with both the upstairs and downstairs crew embracing change-of-pace roles — although devoted viewers may want to enshrine them forever as their beloved characters.



"Anybody who's watched and loved Downton is going to remember these characters for the rest of their lives," said executive producer Gareth Neame. But cast members "can't put a pin in their career and say that's it." British actors are especially keen on variety and like "to move away from things they've been previously successful with," Neame said.

Froggatt said change is part of acting's allure.

"After playing a role that you've loved playing for years, there is a certain part of you that goes, 'I fancy doing something a bit different," she said.

After Sunday's Downton Abbey finale, here's where to find its former gentry and servants:

Hugh Bonneville (Lord Grantham): Possibly the actor staying closest to his Downton pedigree, he plays Lord Louis Mountbatten in the Indian independence movie Viceroy's House.

Laura Carmichael (Lady Edith): Takes on a sibling role again in the 1940s history-based romance, A United Kingdom, introducing her sister to her future husband, an African prince.

Brendan Coyle (John Bates): Plays English politician Augustine Birrell in the historical Irish film drama The Rising. Also in the romantic movie Me Before You, based on the novel by Jojo Moyes.

Elizabeth McGovern (Lady Cora): Writing and recording her fourth album with the band Sadie and the Hotheads. In April, starting rehearsals at the National Theatre in London for Sunset at the Villa Thalia.

Allen Leech (Tom Branson), pictured below: In the film Hunter's Prayer, based on Kevin Wignall's novel For the Dogs, Leech plays the former boss of a hired assassin whose assignment goes awry.

Penelope Wilton (Isobel Crawley): As lonely wife Pauline in the upcoming British TV series Brief Encounters, set in the 1980s, Wilton is one of four women whose lives are changed when they start selling exotic lingerie at house parties. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV BRIEFS

A scene from the Fuller House sequel series. HANDOUT

Fuller House renewed for second season

Netflix has announced via Twitter that Fuller House has already been renewed for a second season. All 13 of Season 1's episodes came out on Feb. 26. The original series starred Bob Saget, Lori Loughlin, John Stamos, and Dave Coulier who have appeared in the revival show. AFP

The Force Awakens comes to home video in April

Soon you won't have to travel to a galaxy — or a theatre — far, far away to see Star Wars blockbuster. The Force Awakens is set to be released on home video next month. It will be available for purchase On Demand beginning April 1 and on Blu-ray and DVD on April 5. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Junos version of Poehler and Fey

TELEVISION

Jann Arden and Olympian Jon Montgomery to host the show

Watch your backs, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, because Canadian singer Jann Arden and Olympic gold medallist Jon Montgomery are coming for your comedic hosting crowns.

The Calgary-born singer and former skeleton racer from Russell, Man., are teaming up to host this year's Juno Awards in Calgary, and Arden likens their duties to the unforgettable pairing of Fey and Poehler at the Golden Globes.

"We're going to beat our writers up and say, 'No, give us something else to say!' until it's right," Arden jokes.

"I've got 19 gown changes, so it's going to be exhausting."

Arden says she's aiming high for the Junos given the splash that several Canadian nominees made internationally in the past year. And some of them are lined up to take the stage to perform, including The Weeknd, Alessia Cara and Shawn Mendes.

"You've got Canadians displacing other Canadians for the top of the charts," adds Montgomery.

"If that doesn't paint a picture of what we can proudly lay claim to here in Canada ... then nothing is going to do it for you."

Over the next month, Arden and Montgomery will brainstorm ideas on how to make their hosting duties special.

"We're going to have a lot of fun," Arden says.

"I know that seems kind of trite, but we're supposed to be referees, we're supposed to keep the show moving and set a tone."

Only hours after meeting each other for the first time, the hosts were already exchanging the sort of witty banter you'd expect from two old friends.

Montgomery concedes that while neither Arden or himself have set foot on a Saturday Night Live stage — like Fey and Poehler — they've got the spirit to channel their own version of the classic pairing.

Both are also bringing a formidable level of experience to the table, as they've already fronted major Canadian TV events.

Arden, who rose to fame on Canada's music scene in the 1990s with hits like Could I Be Your Girl and Insensitive, previously hosted the 1997 Juno Awards in Hamilton. That's when Celine Dion and Bryan Adams took home statues for best female and male vocalists.

Montgomery has sharpened his skills as the host of Amazing Race Canada for three seasons.

"John's very charismatic," Arden says.

"He's got good teeth and hair — that reads very well on television."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WATCH

The Juno Awards will air on April 3 on CTV.

Jann Arden and Jon Montgomery sit for an interview with Jann's dog Midi in Toronto on Thursday. CHRISTOPHER KATSAROV/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

TV BRIEF

Trudeau interview to air on 60 Minutes Sunday

A profile interview with Justin Trudeau will air Sunday on the iconic CBS program 60 Minutes, just days before the prime minister travels to Washington, D.C., for a state visit.

A promotional blurb on the network's website describes Trudeau as "a scion of Canadian political royalty" from a family often compared to the Kennedys in the United States.

It touches on the Liberal decision to bring in 25,000 Syrian refugees, a move questioned by some in the United States.

In a brief clip of the interview posted on the site, correspondent Lara Logan asks the prime minister about his "unusual path" to the job and criticism that he wasn't ready for it.

"I was a snowboard instructor, I was a bouncer in a nightclub, I was a whitewater river guide ... I worked as a teacher," he replies. "I make no apologies for a very varied set of life experiences."

The 60 Minutes interview airs Sunday at 7 p.m. ET.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jimmy Kimmel's Donald Trump-themed spoof of The Producers is remarkably similar to one produced by a Toronto act. Coincidence? PHOTO CREDIT IN SMALL CAPS

Comedy theft or collective unconsciousness?

COMEDY

Toronto comedian in sync with Jimmy Kimmel

It's brilliant spoof material: a U.S. presidential candidate so horrifyingly unelectable that a pair of savvy political consultants could build him up just to watch him fall — and abscond with all the campaign donations they could glean.

The problem: it backfires and the candidate — guess who? — goes on to be the baffling frontrunner of a surreal race. Too brilliant, maybe, for a comedian to claim as her own. On Feb. 1, Sharilyn Johnson, a Toronto-based comedy writer and producer, released a 78-second YouTube video called The Campaigners.

It was a politically astute take-off on The Producers, Mel Brooks' 1968 film (and eventual Broadway hit) about Leo and Max, a pair of down-on-their-luck theatre impresarios who decide that producing a flop will make them more money than a hit. Leo and Max crunch the numbers and realize they can cash in on a sure thing: a candidate's failure that they personally engineer.

Then this week came an apparent homage: Jimmy Kimmel Live, the late-night TV juggernaut, released its own five-minute version, called Trumped! in which Leo and Max, a pair of political consultants, decide they can make more money fronting a failed campaign than a successful one. The Kimmel clip has better production values, naturally, and stars Matthew Broderick and Nathan Lane in their original Broadway roles as Leo and Max.

The similarity is undeniable. Just like Springtime for Hitler, The Producers' offensive shocker of a blockbuster, the political candidate succeeds beyond all reason. And, as in Johnson's version, the candidate they chose was Donald Trump.

That may be no great reach, given the gobsmacking rise of perhaps America's most unlikely presidential candidate of all time.

Kimmel's reps on Thursday told the National Post they filmed their skit on Jan. 22, before the YouTube video was posted. The statement was made after Torstar's interview with Johnson.

The idea of parallel thinking — or stealing bits — is nothing new in the comedy world. Bob Hope claimed Milton Berle was ripping him off. David Brenner, in his 2008 autobiography, accused Robin Williams of doing the same.

In the online world of instant sharing and self-promoting videos, though, it's become all the more acute. Last year, a Saturday Night Live skit about game-show contestants sketching the Prophet Muhammad bore some strong similarities to a sketch on This Hour Has 22 Minutes that aired prior.

Johnson'sfg sketch and Kimmel's are in sync: their opening scenes, in which Leo and Max concoct their scheme; their matching cut to the men searching for the perfectly awful candidate.

"He has to be a world class putz, a buffoon!" crows Nathan Lane as Max in Kimmel's version.

"We got to find someone so terrible, so horrible," says Josh Murray as Max in Johnson's version, as Leo (played by Robert Kellery) leafs through biographies of Lance Armstrong and Bill Cosby, and then breaks into laughter as he shows the camera the cover of Trump's Crippled America. Even Sarah Palin gets referenced in both versions.

"The basic connection between The Producers and the Trump campaign is a pretty obvious one," Johnson says. So much so that she wanted to wrap hers as quickly as possible before someone beat her to it. "It lit a fire under my ass," she laughs.

Despite some encouragement on Twitter, being first hasn't meant topping out on hits. Across YouTube and Funny Or Die, The Campaigners has about 1,500 views; Kimmel's Trumped clocks in at 8 million on Facebook plus another 650,000 on YouTube, and counting.

"I put $50 behind some promotional Facebook and Twitter posts," Johnson laughs, explaining her promotional efforts versus the effortless promotion of Kimmel Live. The sketch was prepared for Sunday's post-Oscars show, his biggest annually in viewers.

As amused as she is by the coincidence, Johnson has a little advice. "There are worse things than being in sync with Jimmy Kimmel," she says. "But I like to keep things tight. If I was the one producing their sketch, it would have been nowhere near five minutes long."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TIMELINE

Comics and thieves: a joke theft timeline

Comedians — from Milton Berle to Robin Williams — have long been accused of stealing material. But with the spread of comedy over social media, the accusations have seemingly ramped up in recent years.

2016

Anonymous videos compare Amy Schumer's jokes to the material of comedians Wendy Liebman, Patrice O'Neal, Kathleen Madigan, Tammy Pescatelli and Joseph Tran.

2015

Robert Kaseberg, who has written for The Tonight Show, sues Conan O'Brien's program, alleging the show has taken some of his jokes from the Internet.

Comics including Michael Ian Black and Patton Oswalt call out Instagram celeb Josh Ostrovsky, a.k.a. The Fat Jew, for blatantly ripping off jokes.

An SNL sketch closely mirrors an earlier one from This Hour Has 22 Minutes, in which a game-show contestant is asked, and refuses, to draw a picture of the Prophet Muhammad.

2014

Ian Gray, a member of the Groundlings comedy troupe, accuses Saturday Night Live of stealing a sketch about Tina Turner from his group.

2012

Louis C.K. claims that Dane Cook lifted several of his jokes. The two argue it out on an episode of Louie.

2011

A sketch troupe claims a part of Conan O'Brien's act is very similar to their routines. The Conan show replies that their performers had been doing the routine for years.

2010

A Saturday Night Live sketch featuring performers in tiny hats bears a similarity to a routine that appeared in the Tim And Eric Awesome Show, Great Job!, which also had a tiny hat theme.

2005

Joe Rogan accuses Carlos Mencia of stealing material from numerous comics. Mencia eventually admits to reworking others' material.

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Aim to get diversity down to a fine art

MULTICULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Galleries acknowledge need to mix it up more

Catherine Kustanczy
For Metro Canada

Visitors look at an exhibition of landscape paintings at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Everyone has their own idea of what Canadian art is. The landscapes depicted by the Group of Seven painters in the early 20th century, beautiful as they are, don't fully represent the Canada of the 21st century, particularly its racial diversity.

A report published in Canadian Art magazine this past spring examined demographics of solo exhibitions of living artists at Canadian public institutions had disappointing results: 56 per cent of shows were by white male artists. Just 11 per cent were by non-white male and female artists.

"A lot of change needs to happen," says Sandra Brewster, a multi-media artist whose work examines race and identity. "Institutions must engage with these artists."

Charmaine Lurch agrees. "If we're not in those power structures, in those areas, then we're not known, and not invited in," says the award-winning arts researcher and interdisciplinary artist. "I think our work is seen more as a decoration."

Engagement is just one of the steps in a larger overall process, says Andrew Hunter, the Fredrik S. Eaton Curator of Canadian Art at the Art Gallery of Ontario. "One of the things we've been talking a lot about is, what is it visitors expect? What are their preconceptions? If you continue to think of your country and your country's story through images of an empty landscape, that doesn't encourage them to think of the cultural diversity of the country."

Melanie Kjorlien, Vice President of Access, Collections and Exhibitions at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, echoes this. "People have a greater awareness of the Group of Seven and Emily Carr — it's something they think they should see. We put those things in our mix of programming, but we also try to include other stuff that people might not be familiar with. We are conscious of wanting to add to the collection things that reflect the community, including diverse artists coming to the fore."

Both Lurch and Brewster say leadership at Canadian arts institutions should more accurately reflect Canada's multicultural landscape. "If they feel that diversity is important, which is something we all keep hearing about, then they should find strategies to make diversity happen — in offices, in programming, in their collections, and in their audiences," Brewster says.

Hunter agrees. "The mix of (leadership) has to be reflective, and I think that's a challenge for many institutions. Many are making strides but everybody also recognizes there's a long way to go."

> **We are conscious of wanting to add to the collection things that reflect the community**
> Melanie Kjorlien, Glenbow Museum

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Smith goes 'really deep' for sophomore album

NO RELEASE DATE

Crooner says even more of his heart on the line this time

Singer-songwriter Sam Smith is working on a new album. RICH FURY/INVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you thought Sam Smith was deeply honest on his first album, expect him to take it a step further on his sophomore release.

"It's (expletive) great. It's really deep (stuff) that's coming out — that's all I'll say," a smiling Smith said in a recent interview.

He wouldn't say when his follow-up to 2014's In the Lonely Hour will be released, but said he's pushing himself to explore new territory.

"Every day I'm having little epiphanies and changes and loving it. But all I can say is that I'm putting my heart even more out on the (expletive) line," Smith said. "I'm going even deeper. I can't believe I'm even doing it, but I'm going even deeper."

In the Lonely Hour featured emotional pop songs about love lapses and unrequited love, including song titles like Leave Your Lover and I'm Not the Only One. It reached multiplatinum status in the United States and won four Grammy Awards, including song and record of the year for Stay With Me.

As he reflects on that album, Smith says he has mixed feelings about his breakthrough project.

"There's a few songs I really (expletive) hate, but then the core of the album, songs like Stay With Me, I'm Not the Only One — actually all the songs except Money on My Mind — I really love and I'm really proud of the classic-ness of the way they sound, because I still listen to them now and I still love them," he said. "The music I'm making at the moment, it's very much a beautiful little transition from there and it fits."

> **The music I'm making at the moment, it's very much a beautiful little transition from there and it fits.**
> Sam Smith

Smith co-wrote his debut album and also won an Academy Award for co-writing Writing's on the Wall from the James Bond film Spectre. He says there's a "few moments" on his first album "where I think to myself, 'I would have changed that. I would have done that differently.'"

Smith added that when he began to rise in the United Kingdom as a featured act on Disclosure's dance song Latch — originally released in late 2012 — there was some confusion about which musical direction he should take.

"As soon as Latch had a lot of success in (the) U.K., my label and me had a little bit of a panic. We were like, 'Maybe we should be doing dance?' And that's what I can hear on (my first) album — there's two or three songs where I can hear the little wobble, but the rest of the album is what I set out to make from the beginning," he said.

"But I still love my album, but I'm loving my new one (expletive) more."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEMORABILIA

Dylan archives land near Guthrie museum

Bob Dylan. GETTY IMAGES

More than 6,000 items of Bob Dylan memorabilia such as handwritten lyrics to Tangled Up In Blue and his first contract with a music publisher have found a home in Oklahoma near a museum honouring one of his major influences, folk singer Woody Guthrie.

The archives from Dylan's six-decade career, acquired by the George Kaiser Family Foundation and the University of Tulsa for between $15 million and $20 million, also include early recordings from 1959 and a wallet that contains Johnny Cash's former address and phone number.

Dylan, who's originally from Minnesota, said he's glad the archives found a home and the Tulsa location makes a lot of sense, "to be included with the works of Woody Guthrie and especially alongside all the valuable artifacts from the Native American Nations."

"It's a great honour," Dylan said in a statement.

A few items were already on display Wednesday at the Gilcrease Museum, including Dylan's cigarette-stained lyrics to Chimes of Freedom on stationary from the Waldorf Astoria hotel in Toronto and early iterations of Visions of Johanna written on sheets from a yellow legal pad.

"The only damage is Bob's coffee stains and cigarette stains," said Michael Chaiken, the inaugural curator of the collection.

Nearly 1,000 items have arrived so far at the university's Helmerich Center for American Research, which is affiliated with the city's Gilcrease Museum. Transferring the entire archive will take up to two years.

The trove of memorabilia will be permanently housed at the museum, but curated exhibits will eventually be on display in Tulsa's Brady Arts District, near the museum honouring the Oklahoma-born Guthrie that opened in 2013.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW OLD RECORDINGS YOU AND I

Unheard Jeff Buckley tracks now streaming

A new collection of Jeff Buckley recordings due out on March 11 has been made available to stream now on NPR. Most of the tracks were recorded in February 1993, not long after Buckley had signed to his record label. The recordings had sat undiscovered for more than 20 years until they were found in the Sony Music archives by staff, becoming available for fans to enjoy this week. AFP

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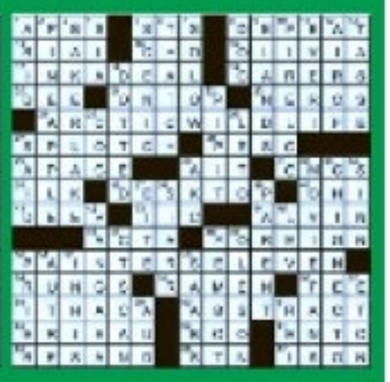
5	1	7	8	2	3	9	4	6
3	7	9	1	8	4	2	6	5
6	4	2	3	7	5	1	8	9
8	5	1	9	6	2	4	7	3
7	2	8	4	5	9	6	3	1
1	9	6	2	3	7	8	5	4
4	3	5	6	1	8	7	9	2



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NASA photos of the moon are on display at the U.S. National Air and Space Museum

Thousands of years on ice

ATLANTIC CANADA

Newfoundland's Iceberg Alley is full of great white wonder

Nature's frozen carvings drift through Iceberg Alley each spring and summer but early arrivals near Newfoundland's eastern shores have already lit up social media.

Eric Abbott did a double take in mid-January when he first saw a giant slab off Elliston, N.L. Since then, his photos of it and another water-sculpted berg off the pretty coastal town of Bonavista have drawn admirers from around the province and beyond.

"Most of the time I've seen them in March or April," he said in an interview. "There's people saying 'Eric, you think they'll be there in March month?' I say: 'My darling, the one in Elliston is grounded, it's only shifting back and forth. I allow it'll be there in August.'"

Many Newfoundlanders who posted photos of an iceberg spotted in mid-February off Signal Hill in St. John's said it's the earliest they can remember big ice showing up.

Byron Briggs, superintendent of Atlantic region ice operations for the Canadian Coast Guard, said it's not unusual to have icebergs off Newfoundland's east coast this time of year.

"The difference being this time, some of them are close enough to shore for people to see. In 2014 there were definitely more bergs than there are now, but most of them were about 100 miles off."

Only ships out to sea would have caught a glimpse, Briggs said in an interview. Icebergs have to be within about 20 kilometres of shore to be visible from land, he added.

Gabrielle McGrath, commander of the United States Coast Guard International Ice Patrol, has done recent surveillance flights over the region. The patrol was formed after the Titanic disaster in 1912, and works with Canadian partners to track icebergs in North Atlantic shipping lanes.

More than 20 bergs have so far been spotted in those lanes and many more originating from Greenland glaciers are heading south, McGrath said in an interview.

"It's hard to give a prediction exactly, but I think there is a potential to have a decent amount of icebergs this year."

McGrath said an interesting weather pattern of cold and warm spells combined with storm systems help explain a few things. "Some of the bergs have been pushed onshore maybe a little earlier than they would in the past."

Icebergs photographed close to Newfoundland and Labrador coastlines in past years have reached 45 metres in height while long, flat tabular giants have been estimated at five kilometres in length or more. Waves mould them into spectacular shapes that resemble cathedrals, pyramids and glass archways streaked with blue — and sometimes running with waterfalls. They are believed to be at least 12,000-year-old specimens of pure water.

Cecil Stockley, owner and operator of Iceberg Man tours in Twillingate on Newfoundland's northeast coast, takes groups out starting in May. In recent years he has hosted visitors from across North and Central America and as far away as Russia, China and Japan. "They come looking for icebergs.," he said.

To avoid disappointment, Stockley urges tourists to check in with local operators before they make the trip.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

An iceberg near Bonavista, N.L. on Feb. 13. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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TIPS

How to save a bundle on spring break vacation

This year, spring break will be a tricky affair for some, with the school break at some schools coinciding with an early Easter weekend. But travel experts have a few insider tips on how to save a few bucks for your winter getaway.

According to analysts at flight tracker Hopper, the best days to book a flight are Monday to Wednesdays, when flyers can save up to 25 per cent on their airfare, compared to flights scheduled for Thursday to Saturdays.

And though tempting, budget-conscious travellers are advised to forget Friday departures, which are the most expensive.

Here are a few other tips:

Keeping a few tips in mind will help you save and have fun over spring break. ISTOCK

Spring break shoulder

If you can, try booking a trip in early March or late April to avoid the most expensive times to travel.

March Breaks that spill over to Easter are, predictably, the most expensive, posting a 45 per cent premium. The week of March 23, and April 6 are the second and third most expensive weeks.

Book now

The longer you wait, the more expensive the flight will be.

How much more? Booking less than two weeks in advance adds 33 per cent to the ticket price. Booking within three days? That will cost you 66 per cent more.

Monitor prices

In addition to the Hopper app which predicts drops in airfare, other flight tracking apps and sites include Airfare Watchdog, Skyscanner, Momondo and Google Flights.

It may also be worth signing up for alerts to low-budget airlines such as JetBlue, EasyJet, AirAsia, Ryanair, and the newest players on the block, Norwegian Air and WOW Air, which have been selling transatlantic one-way airfares for as little as $99 U.S.

AFP

TRAVEL NOTES OUTSIDER ART, CAMPER VANS, CACTUS LEAGUE

Outsider art museum opens in The Netherlands

A museum of outsider art is opening March 17 as part of the Hermitage Amsterdam in the Netherlands. Outsider art is art created by self-taught artists, unknowns and others outside the art establishment. It is also variously referred to as folk art, art brut and raw art. The new venture is a project of the Het Dolhuys in Haarlem, a museum of psychiatry, in partnership with other organizations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Hermitage Amsterdam will feature a museum of outsider art. ISTOCK

Company rents out VW campers

Planning a road trip in a camper? Consider a set of old-school wheels. A Seattle-based company, Peace Vans Rentals, has fully restored Volkswagen camper vans, all Westfalia models built between 1987 and 1991. They sleep up to four adults and come with a built-in stove, sink and storage space. Included with the rental are cookware, utensils and headlamps, and a French press.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peace Van Rentals has restored old-school campers. HANDOUT

Behold the Cactus League games

Arizona is getting ready for spring training season. Fifteen Major League Baseball teams play around the Phoenix metropolitan area as part of what's called the Cactus League. Spring training in Arizona has been a tradition since the 1940s when the Cleveland Indians and the New York Giants were the only teams that practiced there. The games run through April 2 in advance of MLB's opening day, April 3.

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Yu Darvish at training. FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

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metro SPORTS

"Yeah, I don't care": LeBron James' reaction to those who are upset about his recent visit with Dwyane Wade in Miami

Stamped in Buffalo

NHL

With seventh straight loss, Flames fall into Western cellar

Johan Larsson scored the go-ahead goal with 9:31 left and Marcus Foligno had a goal and two assists in the Buffalo Sabres' 6-3 win over the Calgary Flames on Thursday night.

The loss extended the Flames' skid to 0-6-1 and leaves Calgary in last place in the Western Conference.

Jack Eichel, Nicolas Deslauriers, Rasmus Ristolainen and Evander Kane, with an empty-netter, also scored in helping Buffalo extend its home dominance over Calgary. The Sabres improved to 10-0-2 in their past 12 home games against the Flames, with their last regulation loss a 3-1 defeat on March 15, 1996.

Sean Monahan and Dougie Hamilton each had a goal and an assist, and Mikael Backlund also scored for the Flames. Calgary dropped its sixth consecutive road game.

The Flames' winless streak is their longest since going 0-7-1 in December 2014.

The Sabres took control after Monahan scored 3:56 into the third period to tie the game at 3.

Brian Gionta set up Larsson's goal by pouncing on a loose puck to the left of the Flames net. Drawing two defenders to him, Gionta slipped a past to Larsson, who was alone in front and backhanded a shot over goalie Jonas Hiller's left shoulder.

Eichel scored three minutes later to put Buffalo ahead 5-3 by snapping a shot through a crowd from the blue line that sneaked in just under the crossbar. It was Buffalo's lone power-play goal in seven opportunities.

The game featured a frantic second period that included five goals and ended with Buffalo up 3-2.

The game was tied at 1 before there were three goals — one short-handed, one on the power play and the third at even strength — in a span of 77 seconds.

Foligno made a nifty move to step around Flames defenceman T.J. Brodie and score on a short-handed breakaway with 4:03 left in the second period.

Hamilton scored off the next faceoff by beating Robin Lehner on the short side with a shot from the right circle.

And Zach Bogosian intercepted a weak Flames clearing attempt to set up Deslauriers, who snapped a shot from the left circle to beat Hiller on the short side and put Buffalo up 3-2.

The Flames got off to a dreadful start. They were being outshot 7-0 before Mark Giordano fired a shot into Lehner's chest during a power play with 2:56 left in the first period.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THURSDAY In Buffalo

6	3
SABRES	FLAMES

Sabres left-winger Matt Moulson backhands the puck on Flames goaltender Jonas Hiller during the first period on Thursday night. GARY WIEPERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Court debate may lead to 'Deflategate' ban for Brady

NFL union lawyers who want Patriots quarterback Tom Brady to put "Deflategate" behind him for good are ready to make their pitch to a New York court.

NFL lawyers are asking the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan Thursday to reinstate the league's four-game suspension of Brady. They say a lower-court was wrong to rule that the league bungled a probe of deflated footballs at the 2015 AFC Championship game.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pistorius appeal dismissed

South Africa's highest court has dismissed Oscar Pistorius' appeal of his murder conviction, a lawyer said Thursday, signalling that the former track star's long legal battle since he killed girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp may be drawing to a close.

Oscar Pistorius GETTY IMAGES FILE

The ruling by the constitutional Court clears the way for a judge to sentence the double-amputee runner for murder at a hearing scheduled for April 18.

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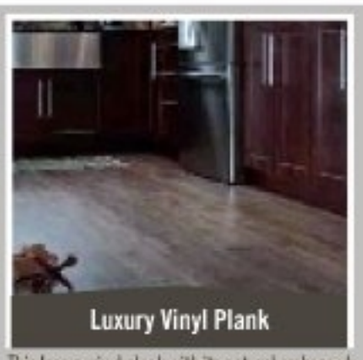

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Phil Mickelson jokes with fans as he walks onto the ninth hole during the first round of the World Golf Championships-Cadillac Championship. MIKE EHRMANN/GETTY IMAGES

Mickelson figures out new-look Doral

GOLF

American star is third and seeking first win since 2013

Phil Mickelson's scores from Doral over the past two years clearly suggested that the redesigned Blue Monster wasn't completely to his liking.

He had to re-learn a course that he played for more than 20 years, and indicated Thursday that he finally has the new Doral figured out.

Mickelson shot a 5-under 67 on Thursday in the opening round of the Cadillac Championship, the first World Golf Championships event of the year. Seeking his first win since the British Open in 2013, Mickelson made seven birdies and finished the day one shot back of leaders Scott Piercy and Marcus Fraser.

"There is a bit of a learning curve on some of the contours and where you have to go and where you want to go and the best place to be," Mickelson said. "It's not like I came in here weeks before and mapped it out like a major. You're here only the week of. But this is our third year here now and it continues to get better each year."

Fraser had seven birdies before his lone bogey of the day, and Piercy also got to 7 under at one point before settling for his 66. Mickelson made bogey only twice, immediately erasing each with a birdie on the following hole, and the 67 was nearly six full shots better than his average round score at Doral in his previous two visits.

His best round on the Blue Monster in 2014 was a 69, and his low score at Doral last year was 71.

"It was a good day," said Mickelson, who feigned disbelief when his chip on the par-5 8th — his 17th of the day — stopped inches from the hole, leaving him a tap-in birdie. "I hit a lot of good shots, made some good putts and just drove it well, enjoyed the day."

Danny Willett, Adam Scott, Jason Dufner and Charley Hoffman were all two shots back of Piercy, each carding 68s. World No. 1 Jordan Spieth was in a group another shot back, three off the pace at 3 under, and said that even on a relatively calm day by Doral weather standards, it felt like a grind.

> **There is a bit of a learning curve on some of the contours.**
> Phil Mickelson on the redesigned Doral course

"It always is here," Spieth said. "And this would be a day that should play about as easy as it possibly can with just a 5- to 10-mile-an-hour breeze. The standard wind here I think. Still, the scores aren't extremely low."

Spieth was in a featured group, with world No. 2 Jason Day and No. 3 Rory McIlroy with him. McIlroy shot 1 under, Day finished at even par.

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11. 160 Acres - 5;1;21;7;SW
12. 157.79 Acres - 5;2;21;1;SE
13. 148.82 Acres - 5;1;20;31;NE

Anyone interested in submitting an offer to purchase any or all of the lands described above should contact Lexy R. Wong as set out below to obtain an offer package which will contain additional information about the lands and the terms and conditions which the Estate may consider when reviewing the offers.

All offers shall be submitted in writing in the form provided in the offer package and delivered no later than 12:00 p.m. MST (noon) on April 18, 2016 to the following:

Lexy R. Wong, Bennett Jones LLP Calgary
4500 Bankers Hall East, 855 - 2nd Street SW, Calgary, AB, T2P 4K7
P. 403 298 3079 | E. WongL@bennettjones.com

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RECIPE Protein Pancakes with Cottage Cheese

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

If you love breakfast for dinner (it's our favourite) then prepare to have your mind blown. These pancakes deliver, wait for it, a nice dose of protein thank you to the addition of cottage cheese. Also, did we mention they are pancakes?

Ready in
Prep time: 5 minutes
Total time: 30 minutes
Makes 6 pancakes

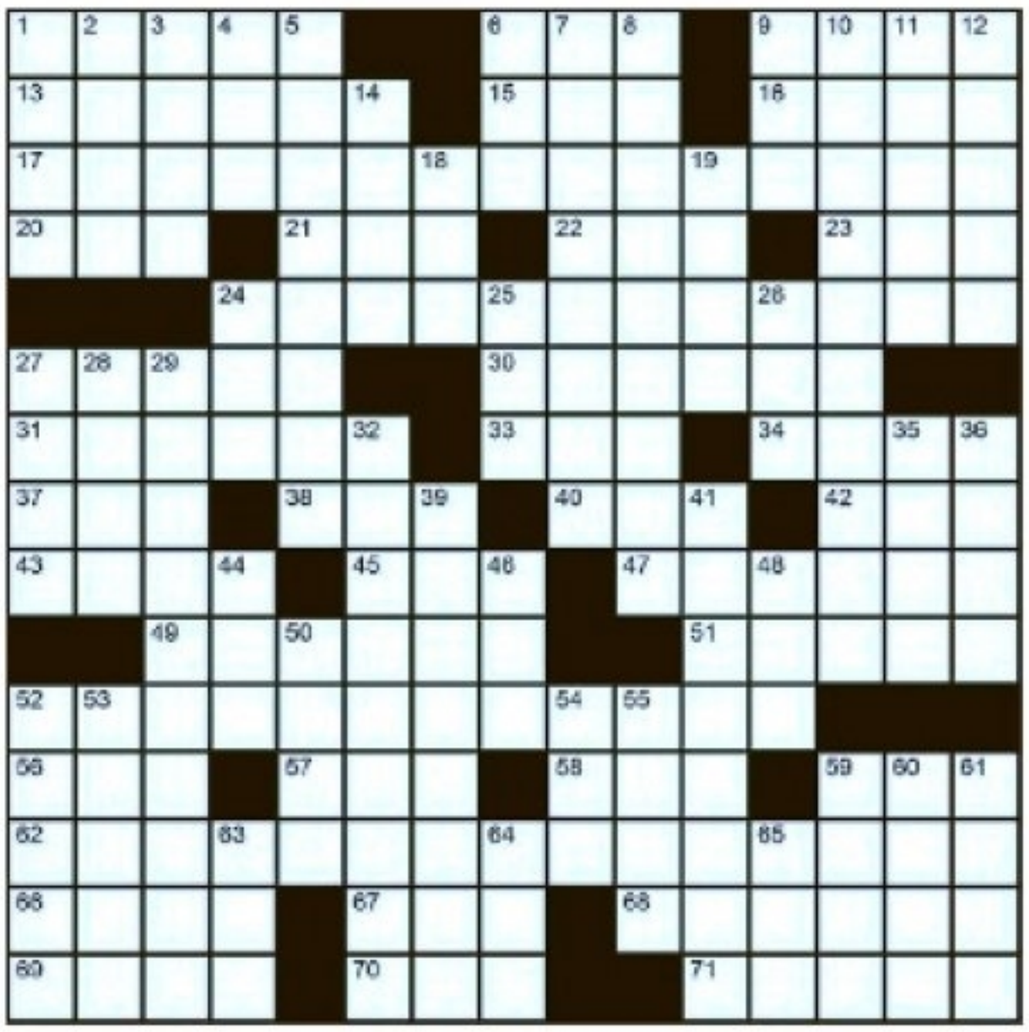
Ingredients
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/4 tsp fine sea salt
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup low-fat cottage cheese
- 3/4 cup low-fat milk
- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- Butter for pan

Directions
1. In a large mixing bowl, stir together the flour, baking soda, sea salt and cinnamon.
2. In a separate bowl, whisk the eggs, cottage cheese, milk and oil.
3. Add the egg mixture to the flour and whisk until just combined.
4. Heat a large skillet or griddle over medium high heat and then toss in a pat of butter. Working in batches, form each pancake by pouring about 1/4 cup of batter into the pan. Cook pancakes until they are golden brown and bubbles break on the surface; then flip. Allow to cook through, about another minute. Serve with either maple syrup or a spoonful of Greek yogurt and honey.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. A. _ & Co. Productions (Company-with-a-Canadian-co-founder behind the show at #52-Across)
6. Soul: French
9. Disapproves
13. Couch potato's dinner table: 2 wds.
15. Mr. Brooks
16. Juice berry
17. Canadian Forces... Meritorious Service Cross and General Campaign Star: 2 wds.
20. Poetic contraction
21. Sing-y syllable
22. Vintage record label
23. "_ Mir Bist Du Schon" by The Andrews Sisters
24. Popular palettes in interior decor now: 2 wds.
27. Gladiator's 553
30. RSVP 'yes'
31. Country singer Lee Ann
33. Avril's Sk8er's gender
34. Window part
37. Bon _ (High society)
38. Kit _
40. 'Proto' suffix (Amoebae, and kin)
42. Compete
43. Predicament
45. Wee weekday
47. LA Dodgers division: acr. + wd.
49. _ and tribulations
51. Ms. Flynn Boyle's
52. As per #1-Across... Culinary reality show for Chef Gordon Ramsay: 2 wds.
56. 'Human' suffix
57. European peak
58. Demure
59. Trendy
62. Really cold temperature: 3 wds.
66. Spa service, _-pedi
67. Position
68. Savoured
69. Belonging to London's wee country
70. ER pros
71. Alison Moyet's "Don't Go" duo

DOWN
1. Bank _.
2. Ancient 1007
3. "_ cost ya!"
4. Prefix to 'angle'
5. Magical feat for Wayne Gretzky: 2 wds.
6. Ms. Poehler
7. Television doctor: 2 wds.
8. Public speaking strength
9. Universal ideal
10. One admiring a coral reef at great depth: 2 wds.
11. R.U.R. playwright
12. Oui ouis ...in Barcelona: 2 wds.
14. Lively
18. Mr. Liotta
19. Mr. Berkus
24. Angelina Jolie role
25. Capture
26. Ward workers, wee-ly
27. Tom Bergeron hosts it [acronym]
28. Ribbon bow part
29. "Hey, that's the truth!": 3 wds.
32. 'Of Ghosts and Gods' metal band from Montreal
35. Ms. Kudrow
36. Allows
39. Where a gardener might plant bulbs: 2 wds.
41. Back street
44. Li'l old MTV show
46. Ballpark fig.
48. Pallid
50. Time _ _ a premium
52. Player's call in blackjack: 2 wds.
53. Mr. Hawke
54. Nero's 250
55. Laugh-a-minute
59. "Eraser" Canadian noise/punk band
60. Nabisco's famous treat
61. Extinct bird of Mauritius
63. '_' _ for Rimouski
64. Sci-Fi movie extras
65. Ms. Gabor, for short

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
An offer may seem attractive but don't commit yourself too quickly. Consider the pros and cons before deciding whether or not it is the right move for you. Opportunities are like buses — there will always be another.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Be on your guard when dealing with people one-to-one. You may not be the sort who gives your trust too easily but some people can be very persuasive. Don't let them sway you.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Why are you so defensive? Every time someone says something you take it as a personal slight. You're overreacting but this phase won't last long. You'll forget about it soon.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You are tired from the constant running around you've been doing but you're also pleased by the progress you've made. You'll make more progress today if you slow down and concentrate on one specific aim.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Some of the changes taking place may not be to your liking but there is nothing you can do about them. You know that, sooner or later, everything works out for the best.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You won't let anyone coerce you into doing things you don't approve of. Now extend your protection to those who cannot look after themselves. Take them under your wing.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Be on your toes where anything of a financial nature is concerned. There is little doubt you will succeed but you will also attract people who think they can get rich at your expense.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You seem to be constantly on the go, no doubt due to Mars, planet of ego and energy, in your birth sign. But even a Scorpio has limits, so slow down and focus on essentials.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Mistakes are a fact of life but if you find yourself making the same mistake over and over you can be sure that something's wrong. The world won't change for you, so you must change in response to the world.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Go all out to make a good impression on those you live and work with today. Creatively and romantically this is a great time for you and if you believe that you deserve to be lucky and loved then you will be.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you find it hard to live within your means that is a sign you're doing too many things for too many people — and paying too much for the privilege. How many of your "friends" really care for you? Be ruthless today.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
No matter how tough the challenge, you will pass with flying colours. You are endowed with the kind of self-belief that can move mountains.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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				6	9			3

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YOU ARE A CHAMPION

The race to the top of a major hockey league is tough and the eventual champions must have lived a life that prepared them for the top. The bible equally says, "in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets first prize, So run your race to win." *(1 Corinthians 9: 24 TSB)* It is said that many are called but few will be chosen. Surrender all to Jesus in order to be among the few.

For prayers and counseling call the pastor at 587.579.0454

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